

2013 ACS Macro Letters Editorial: Our First Year of Business

Happy New Year from all of us at ACS *Macro Letters*. Well, it has been a busy first year! Before we go on, let us first thank all the authors and reviewers for their hard work and participation in what has been a very successful first year of the journal. Thanks and credit also go to all the ACS Publications staff and, in particular, Penelope Lewis, Assistant Director of Editorial Development at ACS Publications, and Paulomi Majumder, the new Managing Editor for ACS *Macro Letters*, *Macromolecules*, and *Biomacromolecules*, for helping to get the journal up and running. The vision for ACS *Macro Letters* is to provide the most rapid outlet for exciting new developments in all areas of modern polymer science, including highly interdisciplinary topics. To date, we are averaging an incredible 3–4 weeks from date of submission until first decision, with accepted manuscripts appearing on the web (with page numbers!) in around seven weeks. This has been achieved thanks to the hard work from our reviewers, our Journal Office Assistant (Kat Squibb), and the three Associate Editors, Theresa Reineke (University of Minnesota), Christoph Weder (University of Fribourg, Switzerland), and Rachel Segalman (UC Berkeley), who joined the team in July 2012 (more on Rachel later). In addition, the outstanding production team at ACS Publications has also made a significant contribution; those of you who are authors can certainly testify to the remarkably fast turnaround from acceptance to receipt of galley proofs.

We are very happy to see that the polymer community has responded so positively to ACS *Macro Letters*. For example, we have had almost twice the number of submissions than communications submitted to *Macromolecules* in 2010, and we have published 288 letters in our first year. In addition, we have published 10 Viewpoints, which are “mini-reviews” specifically designed to allow authors to give their views on important areas of polymer research. In this first year, the published Viewpoints have crossed a range of important topics in polymer science such as the functionalization of graphene,¹ polymerization from proteins,² living conjugated polymer synthesis,³ organic catalysts in polymer synthesis,⁴ properties of cellulose nanocrystals,⁵ mechanochemistry,⁶ bottlebrush polymers,⁷ polymer electronics,⁸ and membranes for water purification⁹ or proton conduction.¹⁰ In this first issue of 2013, we have two Viewpoints focused more in the biomedical materials arena. Azagarsamy and Anseth discuss the use of bioorthogonal Click chemistry to create cell culture scaffolds,¹¹ and Stenzel discusses using related efficient “Click-like” thiol-based chemistry to achieve bioconjugation.¹² If you are interested in proposing a topic for a Viewpoint, please feel free to contact one of the editors with your suggestion.

We are also excited to announce a new partnership between the ACS Polymer Chemistry Division (POLY) and ACS *Macro Letters*, *Macromolecules*, and *Biomacromolecules* to inaugurate a new annual award in our field. The “*Biomacromolecules/Macromolecules* Young Investigator Award” Lectureship will honor the contributions of two individuals, early in their careers, who have made a major impact on the field of polymer

science. The inaugural award lectureship will be held at the Fall 2013 ACS National Meeting. The Call for Nominations for the award is available at <http://pubs.acs.org/page/pr/awards/biomac-macro-young-investigator.html> and applications will be accepted until January 11, 2013. We look forward to receiving your nominations!

An important role of leading scientific publications is to foster consistency and precision in the use of terminology. To this end, we would like to draw your attention to the document “A Brief Guide to Polymer Nomenclature”, available at www.iupac.org/web/ins/2008-032-1-400. This useful guide has been assembled by the IUPAC Polymer Division, Subcommittee on Polymer Terminology, under the leadership of Roger Hiorns. We encourage you and your co-workers to read this document and to conform to its recommendations. One particular recommendation that affects many papers is the use of the term “dispersity”, with symbol \bar{D} , to replace the out-dated “polydispersity index”.

In the same vein, the interaction of polymers with biological systems has not only become an attractive area of research, but also a field of commercial application. The IUPAC Subcommittee for Polymer Terminology is concerned with the confusing uses of some terms in the field of polymeric compounds at the interfaces with different forms of life. For the last six years, the subcommittee has worked to elaborate a terminology usable without any confusion in the various domains dealing with biorelated polymers, namely, medicine, surgery, pharmacology, agriculture, packaging, biotechnology, polymer waste management, and so on. This is necessary because (i) human health and environmental sustainability are more and more interdependent, (ii) research, applications, norms, and regulations are still developed independently in each sector, and (iii) nonspecialists like journalists, politicians, and partners of complementary disciplines are implicated more and more and need a common language. Recently, the resulting IUPAC recommendations have been published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*.¹³ The 34 page document is available free at (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1351/PAC-REC-10-12-04>). Polymer scientists will find help when they have to handle concepts and phenomena like degradation, biodegradation, bioadsorption, bioerosion, bioactivity, bioavailability, biocompatibility, sustained and controlled release, drug delivery, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, toxicity, foreign body reaction, prodrug, and so on, whereas pharmacologists will find help when they have to handle concepts and phenomena like macromolecule, polymer, polymerization, aggregate, micelle, micro- and nanoparticles, conjugates, and so on. Furthermore, terminology that is common to both health and environmental sustainability disciplines receives definitions that provide researchers with a common language. ACS *Macro Letters* sees in these IUPAC recommendations a valuable means to improve

Received: December 17, 2012

Published: January 7, 2013

the impact of relevant published articles and strongly encourages systematic adoption.

Last, but definitely not least, we are delighted to introduce you to our third *ACS Macro Letters* Associate Editor, Rachel A. Segalman, who joined the team in the middle of 2012. Rachel is currently an associate professor of Chemical Engineering at UC Berkeley and a faculty scientist in the Materials Science Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories. She received her B.S. in Chemical Engineering with highest honors from the University of Texas at Austin. She then performed her doctoral work in Chemical Engineering (polymer physics) at the University of California, Santa Barbara, working with Professor Edward J. Kramer. Following her Ph.D., Dr. Segalman was a postdoctoral fellow at the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France, working with Professor Georges Hadziioannou on conjugated polymer synthesis. She then joined the faculty of UC Berkeley in the spring of 2004 as the Charles Wilke Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2009. Dr. Segalman's group has performed significant work in controlling the structure and thermodynamics of functional polymers, including semiconducting and bioinspired polymers. She also has interest in designing polymeric and hybrid materials for energy applications, including thermoelectrics, photovoltaics, and solar fuels. Among other awards, Dr. Segalman received the 2012 Dillon Medal from the American Physical Society, is an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, a Camille Dreyfus Teacher Scholar, and has received the Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering (PECASE), MDV Innovators Award, Hellman Family Young Faculty Award, 3M Untenured Faculty Award, NSF CAREER Award, Intel Young Faculty Seed Award, and Chateaubriand Postdoctoral Fellowship. She is also an Associate Editor for the *Annual Reviews of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering*.



Photo of Dr. Segalman published with permission from Michael Barnes, University of California, Berkeley.

We look forward to another year of *ACS Macro Letters*, continuing to serve the scientific community as the highest quality platform for rapid communication in the field of polymer science.

Timothy P. Lodge, Editor-in-Chief
Stuart J. Rowan, Deputy Editor

■ REFERENCES

- (1) Swager, T. M. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 3–5.
- (2) Sumerlin, B. S. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 141–145.
- (3) Yokozawa, T.; Nanashima, Y.; Ohta, Y. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 862–866.
- (4) Dove, A. P. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 1409–1412.

- (5) Eichhorn, S. J. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 1237–1239.
- (6) Wiggins, K. M.; Brantley, J. N.; Bielawski, C. W. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 623–626.
- (7) Rzaev, J. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 1146–1149.
- (8) Chiechi, R. C.; Hummelen, J. C. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 1180–1183.
- (9) Ma, H.; Burger, C.; Hsiao, B. S.; Chu, B. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 723–726.
- (10) Beers, K.M.; Balsara, N. P. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2012**, *1*, 1155–1160.
- (11) Azagarsamy, M. A.; Anseth, K. S. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2013**, *2*, 5–9.
- (12) Stenzel, M. H. *ACS Macro Lett.* **2013**, *2*, 14–18.
- (13) Vert, M.; Doi, Y.; Hellwich, K.-H.; Hess, M.; Hodge, P.; Kubisa, P.; Rinaudo, M.; Schué, F. *Pure Appl. Chem.* **2012**, *84*, 377–410.