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Editorial

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Editorial

On behalf of the associate editors, the editorial advisory board, and Gordon and Breach Publishers, I am delighted to introduce the *International Journal of Polymer Analysis and Characterization*. Now, for the first time, there is a journal dedicated to state-of-the-art developments and advances in the area of polymer analysis and characterization. The combined fields of polymer science and analytical chemistry are the basis for obtaining fundamental information and insight into the nature of polymers and the chemistry of polymerization, establishing structure-property relationships, and guiding the development of new materials.

With the growth and development of polymer science, polymers and polymeric materials have become exceedingly more complex, consisting of blends, composites, and branched and grafted structures of unusual architectures, chemistries, and properties. Furthermore, the structural features of even the most simple polymers are still not fully understood. Recent developments of analytical instrumentation have greatly expanded applications to polymer science; however, these results are oftentimes complex and require detailed interpretation. Thus synergy of polymer scientists and analytical chemists is essential.

To meet these challenges, polymer analysis and characterization is emerging as a distinct discipline. This critical area of research is also economically driven by the need to monitor and control polymer processing to tailor make polymers of given end-use performance, increase production efficiency, and reduce waste. Polymer analysis and characterization has become an integral part of polymer science and plays a major role in the polymer industry.

Unfortunately, publications in this area are dispersed among the many analytical-related journals and a wealth of polymer science publications, making it difficult for researchers to access the literature, and for authors to reach the appropriate audience. To meet this need, the *International Journal of Polymer Analysis and Characterization* was established.

The scope of the Journal is to publish original contributions and reviews on studies, methodologies, instrumentation, and applications involving the analysis and characterization of polymers and polymeric-based materials, including synthetic polymers, blends, composites, fibers, coatings, supramolecular structures, polysaccharides, and biopolymers. The Journal will accept papers and reviews on the following topics and research areas involving fundamental and applied studies

of polymer analysis and characterization:

- Characterization and analysis of new and existing polymers and polymeric-based materials.
- Design and evaluation of analytical instrumentation and physical testing equipment including new developments, modifications, data interpretation, and applications.
- Determination of molecular weight, size, conformation, branching, cross-linking, chemical structure, and sequence distribution.
- Polymer analysis and characterization using separation, spectroscopic, and scattering techniques.
- Surface characterization of polymeric materials.
- Measurement of solution and bulk properties and behavior of polymers including viscoelastic, thermal, and mechanical characterization.
- Studies involving structure-property-processing relationships, and polymer aging.
- Analysis of oligomeric materials.
- Analysis of polymer additives and decomposition products.

The Journal is affiliated with the International Symposium on Polymer Analysis and Characterization (ISPAC), a nonprofit educational and scientific organization established in 1987. In addition to submitted manuscripts, the Journal will also be publishing full papers presented at ISPAC meetings, as well as proceedings from related symposia and conferences, such as the International GPC Symposium '94, which will appear in future issues.

Manuscripts, which are peer-reviewed and typeset, can be sent to any one of the editors. (See "Notes for Contributors" at the back of the Journal.) A quarterly publication is planned; however, publication frequency will be increased depending on the number of manuscripts received. Please contact one of the editors if you have any questions or concerns regarding the content of the Journal or would like to propose a review article.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to Drs. Nikos Hadjichristidis (Univ. Athens, Greece) and Josef Janča (Univ. LaRochelle, France) for their editorial contribution to the debut volume, and the Corporate Center for Analytical Sciences of DuPont Central Research & Development for their support.

Howard G. Barth
Editor-in-Chief