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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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International Journal of Polymer Analysis and Characterization

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713646643>

Editorial

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To cite this Article Štěpánek Guest Editor, Petr and Janča Editor-in-Chief, Josef(2007) 'Editorial', International Journal of Polymer Analysis and Characterization, 12: 1, 1

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10236660601095181

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10236660601095181>

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Editorial

The meeting Structure and Dynamics of Self-organized Macromolecular Systems, organized and chaired by Dr. Petr Štěpánek, was held at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague on July 9–13, 2006. More than 120 scientists, coming from 22 countries, participated in the meeting. The scope of this meeting was to bring together scientists working in the field of synthetic polymers and biopolymers and interested in self-organization. Due to a large variety of building blocks, chemical reactions, and architectures, polymers represent a particularly rich field where self-organization can be exploited to obtain materials with new properties. The topics of the meeting included physics of self-organization, chemical routes for self-organization, self-organized surfaces and interfaces, self-organization in biology, polymer complexes, and ion-containing polymers and membranes.

Selected contributions to the meeting are published in this volume, representing current trends in the investigation of polymer properties and their characterization. Self-organization of polymers in micellar and more complicated solvent-containing structures is described. The behavior of polymer brushes was investigated both experimentally and theoretically. Properties of polyelectrolytes are discussed as well as those of neutral polymers, and surface properties were investigated in addition to behavior in bulk.

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