

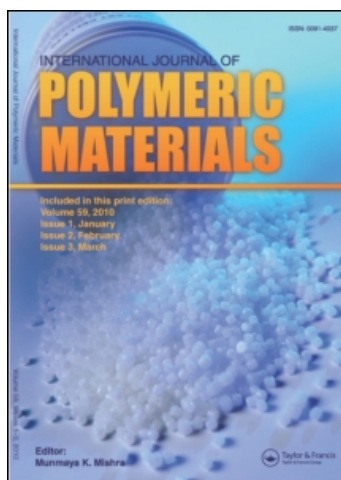
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### Foreword

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## Foreword

The National Association for Science Technology & Society and The Federation of Materials Societies were pleased to organize this first National Symposium to honor Advances in Materials that have had a demonstrable technological impact—a real impact on our society and our lives. These achievements were chosen by surveying the professional materials science and engineering societies represented by The Federation of Materials Societies, whose total membership comprises more than 150,000 scientists and engineers.

Materials—metals, plastics, ceramics, Si chips, heart valves . . .—are the very stuff on which our economy and our lives are based. New materials have allowed and are allowing us to communicate anywhere anytime with the ease of speaking to friends in the same room. They allow us to jet to the Antipodes for a vacation or to Akron for business, drive to the shore or the mountains, and eat better, and live longer. Useful commercial materials, however, are not like Minerva of mythology—they do not spring fully armed from the brow of Zeus—or jump effortlessly from the lab to the marketplace. They come as a result of the persistence and vision of scientists, engineers, businessmen, entrepreneurs, and government leaders.

What we resolved to do in this symposium is to give you our selection of the best of a cornucopia of advances in materials technology, which are already having an impact on our lives and have the power to profoundly change them. We want you to meet some of the people that did these things to share their enthusiasm and humanity and especially for our young people to see that *useful* science is fun and is one of the greatest highs there is. Now let's begin.

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