

PREFACE

It is a great pleasure for me to see a special issue in the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, which is being published in honor of Professor Jack L. Koenig. Compiled in this special issue are the papers presented during the Symposium of the ACS Award in Applied Polymer Science sponsored by the Phillips Petroleum Company at the American Chemical Society in San Francisco in April of 1997. The special session organized for the occasion was celebrated by many of his former students, friends, and colleagues, among the other interested attendees.

Dr. Koenig, the J. Donnell Institute Professor in the Department of Macromolecular Science at Case Western Reserve University, is honored for the award because of his significant contribution in developing spectroscopic methods to provide fundamental structure–property relationships for thermoplastic and thermosetting polymers. Plastics and chemical industries received the benefits of his interest and effort in transferring academic research to industrial environments.

His contribution in polymer education includes high school students, undergraduate, graduate students, and industrial researchers. His active involvement in teaching, in addition to very popular polymer spectroscopy textbooks, influenced their interest in polymer science and engineering. Certainly, he is one of the most cited polymer spectroscopists in the world.

Dr. Koenig is instrumental in active interdisciplinary research effort at Case Western Reserve University and is one of the founding members of the Department of Macromolecular Science. Dr. Koenig established the early NSF Materials Research Laboratory after returning from his first directorship of the NSF Polymers Program. He is currently Associate Director of the NSF Science and Technology Center (ALCOM) which is jointly established with Kent State University and the University of Akron. This is his latest involve-

ment in a long history of pioneering research, starting from bulk polymer analysis of synthetic and biopolymers, rubbers, carbon fibers, polymer blends, and composites, to liquid crystalline materials. His major contributions are also well known in the areas of laser Raman spectroscopy, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), solid state NMR spectroscopy, solid state NMR imaging, and FTIR imaging.

It was a privilege for me to organize the special ACS Award session for Dr. Koenig. We, friends, are looking forward to having many more similar occasions. I am indebted to Professor Eric Baer, Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science* for his willingness to publish this special issue. Also thanks are due to Ms. Mariah Miles for her professional editorial assistance.

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Dr. Koenig