Foreword

To provide a forum for "technical celebration" of 100 years of modern fiber science, a period that began with the invention of viscose rayon, the Fiber Society organized a comprehensive state-of-the-art conference which was held July 5–10, 1998. It brought together an international group of experts to:

- Examine critically the progress in fiber-related science, engineering, and technology
- Identify the current scientific and technological challenges, and project the desired pathways for meeting them

The week-long conference comprised 30 invited, state-of-the-art, keynote presentations in five areas, namely: (i) Sources and Materials of Fibers; (ii) Fiber Formation, Structure, and Properties; (iii) Yarns and Fabrics—Processes, Structures, and Properties; (iv) Properties of Fiber Assemblies; (v) Chemical Modifications of Fibrous Materials. In addition, poster sessions were held in each of these areas, with more than 100 papers presented by professional and student researchers from around the world. The program also included panel discussions on each day's subject, a mini-symposium on Sustainability, and a workshop on Fiber Science-Technology-Management Interfaces.

The current special issue of the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science* comprises a set of articles that is a representative fraction of the proceedings of the 100 Years of Modern Fiber Science Symposium. The full program and abstracts of all the articles can be found at the following Website: www.fibersociety.org.

The origin and/or culmination of many significant advances in polymer science can be found in the field of fibrous materials. The functional requirements of assemblies of organic polymer fibers have invariably required integration of chemical and physical aspects of the materials with the engineering aspects of the fabrication processes. The articles in this special issue of the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science* should serve well to exemplify this multi-disciplinary aspect of fiber science.

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