Preface

Marian Kryszewski, professor at the Centre of Molecular and Macromolecular Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences (CMMS), and at Polytechnic University in Łodz (TUL), Poland, passed away on October 5, 2005, at the age of 80.

He was the *spiritus movens* of polymer science in Poland and was the coorganizer of the Centre at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Łodz. The research interests of Marian Kryszewski and his groups at CMMS PAS and TUL focused on a broad spectrum of problems related to the structure and properties of polymers and other organic solids in condensed phases. A significant accomplishment of Marian Kryszewski and his coworkers was the development of a new class of conductive materials composed of polymers and organic molecular crystals arranged in a ''reticulate-doped'' conductive network. Further research led to materials characterized by high anisotropy of electrical conductivity, high metallic conductivity, and even superconductivity.

Dr. Kryszewski's scientific activity also included research in dielectrics and high-molecular photoconductors such as thin layers of plasma polymers made of various heteroorganic monomers; he was one of pioneers in developing this research frontier in 1960s and 1970s. He was also involved in studies of the morphology of crystalline polymers and polymer systems in correlation with mechanical, thermal, and optical properties.

Marian Kryszewski was active in various scientific societies around the world and was a member of the editorial boards of several scientific journals, including the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*. He was an author or coauthor of over 360 original articles, 50 reviews, and 2 monographs on electrical properties of polymer systems, and he was a coinventor whose work led to 22 patents.

He was a supervisor of 45 doctoral theses, and 12 habilitations were prepared under his guidance.

This special issue of the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science* includes 30 scientific papers concerning various areas of polymer science, written by friends and coworkers of Marian Kryszewski to honor his memory. The topics range from practical guidance in the interpretation of phase transition to discussions of the multilevel structure of complicated polymer and biopolymer systems.

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