

# Preface

The International Conference on Times of Polymers (TOP) and Composites was held on June 20–23, 2010, in Ischia, Italy. This was the fifth of a series of biennial workshops on polymer timescales resulting from a joint initiative of the Second University of Naples and the University of Naples Federico II. TOP is an evolving, dynamic conference that embraces cutting edge research topics and emerging scientists. It was thought having as a primary objective the meeting of a number of researchers working within the area of timescales of polymers, conceived as the background driving force for the progress of knowledge in many fields of polymer science.

Scientists from engineering to chemistry to soft-matter physics areas formed a homogeneous community as the contributions, even if spanning on very different topics, subtended the concept of the timescale of polymer-based materials. Indeed, the conference program was focused on the more recent advances in the following topics: viscoelasticity/rheology, glass transition, adhesion, processing, durabil-

ity, biomaterials, yielding, sensors, thin films, nanocomposites, and transport phenomena.

One plenary lecture (from Professor G. B. McKenna), 20 invited lectures, 64 oral lectures, and 60 poster presentations were communicated and actively discussed by scientists from 27 countries (Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Venezuela). From these, the following articles were selected either as representative of various aspects of the timescale of polymers or on the basis of the scientific quality of the results.

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