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Tribute to Prof. Otto Vogl

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TRIBUTE TO PROF. OTTO VOGL

The first person to be awarded an Honorary Membership in the Slovak Chemical Society is Otto Vogl, Professor, Herman Mark Chair, Polytechnic Institute of New York. Prof. Vogl's first contact with our Institute was on May 16, 1973, when he was the chairman of a session at the Conference on Progress and Future of Macromolecular Science organized by the Polymer Institute in High Tatras, where he introduced the lectures of Prof. Overberger and Kabanov. It is a symbolic coincidence that now, at the 30th anniversary of the Polymer Institute, we welcome him here, again in High Tatras. In 1975 Prof. Vogl was a panel discussion leader at the 3rd IUPAC Conference on Modified Polymers and in 1979 at the same kind of conference he delivered the main lecture, "Synthesis of Graft Copolymers."

Prof. O. Vogl was born on November 6, 1927, in Traiskirchen, Austria. He graduated from the University of Vienna in 1950. He worked as a research associate at the University of Michigan in 1953–1955 and at Princeton University in 1955–1956. In 1956–1970 he was employed in the Plastics Division of DuPont. In 1959 he became a citizen of the United States. Between 1970 and 1983 he was a professor of polymer science and engineering at the University of Massachusetts. His last appointment (1983) was to a professorship at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, New York.

He has been a guest professor at numerous institutions: Kyoto and Osaka Universities; Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden; Universities of Freiburg and Strasbourg; Technical University Dresden.

Prof. Vogl is the author or coauthor of about 500 scientific papers and patents, and of 10 monographs.

His scientific activity is underlined by his membership on the Editorial Boards of numerous polymer journals: *Journal of Polymer Science*; *Journal of Macromolecular Science—Pure and Applied Chemistry*; *Polymer*; *Macromolecules*; *Die Makromolekulare Chemie*; *Polymer News*; *Journal of Polymer Materials*; *European Polymer Journal*; *Oesterreichische Chemiker Zeitung*. He is Editor of *Progress in Polymer Science*.

The scientific activity of Prof. Vogl in macromolecular chemistry has been very wide and fruitful. He has made contributions to the stereospecific polymerizations of haloaldehydes and to cryotachensic polymerization. With the aid of chiral initiators, Prof. Vogl and his coworkers prepared polychloral with preferred helical directions. He was interested in the properties and preparation of head-to-head

polymers and in the modification of polyethylene glycol by endcapping it with fluorouracils, and he subsequently investigated antitumor activities of such drugs. He contributed to the understanding of poly(alkylene oxide) ionomers, comb-type polymers, and regular copolyamides, and their use as reverse osmotic membranes. Another field of his research has been with polymerizable and polymeric stabilizers and UV absorbers. He is the only person in the United States who has dealt systematically with the stabilization of polymers against oxidation.

Prof. Vogl has enabled several Slovak scientists to spend time in his laboratory in the United States where they learned from his achievements and were enabled to continue in a given research direction when they returned home.

As an expression of our deep appreciation of his scientific merits, permanent support, and friendly approach to the Slovak macromolecular community, we award an honorary membership in the Slovak Chemical Society to Prof. Otto Vogl.

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