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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Journal of Macromolecular Science, Part A

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597274>

Preface

Online publication date: 28 November 2010

To cite this Article (1998) 'Preface', Journal of Macromolecular Science, Part A, 35: 7, xi – xii

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10601329808002096

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10601329808002096>

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Preface

The 12th Bratislava Conference entitled "Modified Polyolefins for Advanced Polymeric Materials" was held from August 25 to 28, 1997 at the Conference Hall of the Congress Center of Foreign Affairs in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. It was held under the auspices of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the European Polymer Federation (EPF) and the Slovak Chemical Society (SCS). The Conference was organized by the Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Slovak Chemical Society and the Slovak University of Technology of Bratislava.

The Conference was the 12th in a series of now traditional conferences on Polymers organized by the Polymer Institute. The 1st Bratislava Conference was held 29 years ago with the title "Modified Polymers". This year's Conference was supported by the European Research Office of the US Army, London, UK, by BASF AG, Ludwigshafen, Germany, by Ciba-Geigy AG, Basel, Switzerland, by Plastika a.s., Nitra SR and by the PCD Polymers Ges.m.b.H., Linz, Austria.

The objective of the conference was to bring together scientists from academia and industrial institutions to exchange ideas on recent advances in the chemistry and physics of modified polyolefins leading to advanced polymeric materials.

During the opening ceremony Professors Rolf C. Schulz of Mainz University, Mainz, Germany and Piet J. Lemstra of Eindhoven University, Eindhoven, The Netherlands were awarded Honorary Memberships of the Slovak Chemical Society. The Memberships were granted for the extensive support the recipients provided for the development of macromolecular science in the Slovak Republic and for their cooperation with Slovak scientists.

The lectures and poster presentations as well as the very vigorous panel discussion led by Professor R. M. Waymouth showed that a number of efficient techniques have been developed to modify polyolefins. These modified polyolefins provide advanced materials with novel combination of properties. New catalyst systems are being investigated especially for the controlled polymerization of propylene, which allow the synthesis of highly isotactic or syndiotactic polypropylene also polypropylenes with stereoblock character. Effective grafting methods for polyolefins, especially for polypropylene grafting in the solid state (below the melting point of polypropylene), seems to be revolutionizing the economic preparation of polypropylene based polymers with new properties. The improvement of the compatibility of modified polypropylene with polar monomers was worked out. Progress was also achieved in optimizing the mechanical properties of polyolefin composites using reactive processing.

Altogether 83 contributions were presented at the conference: 10 invited main lectures, 22 contributed papers and 51 contributions were presented in poster form.

In this issue of the Journal of Macromolecular Science - Pure and Applied Chemistry, we present 33 of the contributed lectures and poster presentations with the paper of the leading main lecture as the first article.

Eberhard Borsig
Guest Editor