

## Preface

The Second International Conference on Polymer-Solvent Complexes and Intercalates, was held on August 31 – September 4, 1998 in Ischia (Napoli), Italy. It was organized by Dipartimento di Ingegneria Chimica e Alimentare and by Dipartimento di Chimica of University of Salerno and sponsored by European Polymer Federation. More than 80 scientists from 15 different countries have attended this specialized symposium. In addition to 13 invited lectures, contributed papers were presented in 24 oral contributions and 30 posters. This volume of *Macromolecular Symposia* reproduces extended texts relative to selected contributions, while abstracts of all invited and presented contributions have been reported in the symposium proceedings, which have been distributed at the meeting.

The first edition of the Conference was held on July 1–5, 1996 in Meyrueis (France) and the relative Symposium issue was also published in *Macromolecular Symposia* (Vol. 114, 1997).

The aim of these conferences is to bring together scientists involved with polymer-solvent interactions and provide them the opportunity to communicate and discuss their results.

The symposium has covered the following topics:

Polymer-solvent interactions and dynamics in:

- solids
- surfaces
- gels
- solutions

The various topics were introduced through invited lectures by leading scientists from academia (9 from all over Europe and 4 from overseas), which have generally presented reviews in different fields.

The program was very well received and participants felt that the symposium provided a substantially comprehensive account of studies relative to polymer-solvent interactions. The beautiful landscapes and the splendid atmosphere of Ischia, as well as the outstanding facilities of the congress center, provided excellent possibilities for extended discussions among the participants.

It is, however, worth noting the nearly complete absence to the meeting of industrial scientists, although, in our opinion, a deep knowledge of the nature of polymer-solvent interactions can be relevant for several applications of polymeric materials. An effort should be done in the Third Edition of the Conference to create the conditions to attract also industrial researchers.

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