

Editorial: Synthesis and Processing of Functional Polymers

Franz Stelzer

This special issue of Chemical Monthly is dedicated to lectures presented at the 7th Austrian Polymer Meeting held in Graz in July 2005. This series of meetings was started in 1995 when I was chairing the Macro-Group of the Society of Austrian Chemists (GOeCh) and it is intended to be held every 1 1/2 years in order to get the Austrian Polymer community together and to increase the exchange of experience among the Austrian polymer scientists. It was started as an internal platform of the Macro-Group with about 20 participants coming together at the Congress Hotel of “Seggauberg” near Leibnitz in the region south of Graz. After another 4 Meetings in Graz, Innsbruck, Vienna, and Leoben the meeting has become an international event with about 200 participants from up to 10 countries.

The scope of the meetings has broadened, and this time in Graz the “Polymer Competence Center Leoben” was an integrated partner not only in organization but also with respect to a significant part of the program. This opened the meeting towards to applied research and the Austrian plastic industry showed an increased interest, too.

The contributions reflect this situation. Although the main part of the program is still dealing with various aspects of polymer chemistry, topics of polymer material science are also included. We intend to develop this trend further on in the future.

A number of helping hands and brains were necessary that the meeting became a great success again and finally the proceedings are published. I want to thank all members of the scientific advisory board and especially the local organizing committee and all the coworkers of the Institute which I have the pleasure to preside for their long lasting sympathetic support and cooperation. I would like to reciprocate especially to my co-organizers and co-editors *Petra Kaschnitz* and *Wolfgang Kern*, not forgetting *Robert Saf* and *Christian Slugovc*. Additionally, I have to give special props to my secretary *Renate Trebizan* for keeping the team and me always in good mood.

I also have to mention that all this was not possible without the financial support of our industrial participants and sponsors and the public partners and not to forget the support of our University. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the editorial staff of Chemical Monthly, which offered a forum for presenting an overview of the current research activities. A special vote of thanks is due to *Peter Gärtner* and *Heinz Gamsjäger* for their invaluable help in publishing this special issue.

This Volume is dedicated to Prof. emerit. Dr. *Klaus Hummel* on occasion of his 75th birthday. Prof. *Hummel* was heading the Institute of Chemistry and Technology

of Organic Materials of the Graz University of Technology during 27 years starting 1971. His research concentrated on modification, analysis, and technology of elastomers. He was a pioneer in applying the Nobel Prize winning olefin metathesis reaction to polymer degradation and modification.

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Issue Editor