

Preface

The Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering of the American Chemical Society hosted an international symposium on Semicrystalline Polymers in memory of Professor Andrew Keller at the ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, LA during August 23–26, 1999. During the early preparative stages of this symposium (May–November 1998), the organizers had selected Professor Andrew Keller to give a key-note lecture at this symposium, then, just titled: “Symposium on Semicrystalline Polymers”. This was not to be as Andrew passed away on February 7, 1999 at the age of 73. In view of Professor Keller’s contributions to the field of semicrystalline polymers, it was decided to dedicate this symposium to him. Needless to say that this easy decision received overwhelming support from the scientific community. The symposium, finally titled, “Symposium on Semicrystalline Polymers in Memory of Andrew Keller”, attracted many of Andrew’s old friends, former students and collaborators. The organizers are indebted to Professor David Bassett, Andrew’s first de jure student, for opening the symposium with reminiscences on Andrew’s career and on his achievements in the field of semicrystalline polymers. While a significant number of speakers at this symposium had the pleasure to work directly with Andrew and benefit from his insights, it is also clear that the scientific work of every member of the “semicrystalline polymer” community has to some extent been impacted by Andrew Keller’s contributions. The formal program of this symposium covered recent advances in the understanding of the crystallization and melting processes and in the elucidation of the morphology of short and long *n*-alkane chains, homopolymers, polymer blends and random or block copolymers. Other sessions focused on the use of time-resolved X-ray

scattering and diffraction measurements using synchrotron radiation to monitor morphological evolution during quiescent or flow-induced crystallization and during deformation. The symposium, attended by over 100 scientists from 15 countries, included 50 oral presentations and 45 poster presentations over a period of three and a half days. The symposium organizers, Dr Srivatsan Srinivas (Exxon Chemical) and Prof. Hervé Marand (Virginia Tech.) gratefully acknowledge the support of this event by grants from the Donors of The Petroleum Research Fund (administered by the American Chemical Society), the Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering Division of the ACS, The Dow Chemical Company, Equistar Chemicals, the Exxon Chemical Company, Milliken Chemicals, Montell, Procter and Gamble, 3M and Elsevier Ltd. The guest editors (Dr Bernard Lotz and Prof. Hervé Marand) also gratefully acknowledge Prof. Stephen Z.D. Cheng, Mr Henri van Dorrsen and Elsevier Ltd for allowing them to gather, in this special issue of Polymer dedicated to Andrew Keller, papers on topics dear to him. Besides the 22 papers in this issue dealing with various aspects of semicrystalline polymers, we have also included a manuscript which Andrew Keller was just about to submit for publication. Thanks to Stephen Cheng, this paper is now published. The Guest Editors wish to thank Dr Peter J. Barham and the Physics Department at Bristol University for supplying the recent photograph of Professor Andrew Keller.

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