

Publisher's Note

Dear Contributors and Readers of *Polymer*,

I would like to inform you of several recent changes in the editorial structure of the journal.

Professor Ian Cowie retired from his position of European Editor for Physical Chemistry on 31 July 2002 and became member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the journal. Professor Cowie has been an Editor of *Polymer* since 1983. During this 20-year long period, and particularly since 1995, when he took charge of all Physical Chemistry submissions from Europe, Ian Cowie has been one of the busiest and most efficient Editor of *Polymer*. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for his dedication to *Polymer* and its author community during the last two decades. Professor Stephan Förster is now the sole European Editor for Physical Chemistry, after an overlap period with Ian Cowie.

Professor Ian Ward has been associated with *Polymer* since its very first issue in 1960 to which he was one of the contributors. He became an Editor of *Polymer* in 1974. In view of his extremely long service to the journal and the impact he has made, I am pleased to announce that Professor Ward becomes an Honorary Editor of *Polymer*. Professor Georg Krausch is now the sole European Editor for Physics, following an overlap period with Ian Ward.

We are extremely pleased that the two Honorary Editors, Professors Yukio Imanishi and Ian Ward, will continue to play an active role in the continued development of *Polymer*, through monitoring the output of the journal in terms of quality of individual papers, topics covered and publication speed.

Polymer aims to publish the highest quality original research from all areas of polymer science and technology and to publish it as fast as possible. The journal editors, referees, authors and we, at Elsevier, have made a considerable effort in the past year to make *Polymer* a better journal. The rejection rate has been increased considerably and the average value is now over 60%. The impact factor continues to rise: the latest (2001) figure is 1.681 against 1.529 for the year 2000 and 1.344 for 1999. Papers in *Polymer* appear in print within 6–8 weeks from acceptance and are available electronically 1–3 weeks earlier, unless the author delays sending back the corrected proofs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all authors, referees and journal editors for their contribution towards the success of *Polymer*.

To further speed up the whole publishing process, in February 2002 we introduced an online submission tool. This eliminated the need for mailing hard copies of the manuscript and the referee's reports between authors, editors and referees and can potentially shorten the overall publishing process by 3–5 weeks. To submit your next manuscript online, please go to the journal home page www.elsevier.com/locate/polymer and follow the link to electronic submission.

Thank you for your continuing support of *Polymer*.

Rumen Duhlev
Senior Publishing Editor
Elsevier Science
r.duhlev@elsevier.com