

Publisher's Note

Dear Contributors and Readers of *Polymer*,

I would like to announce a number of changes which came into effect from 1 January 2002.

Professor Jim Feast has decided to retire from his editorial position and become a member of the Editorial Board of the journal. We would like to thank Jim for his dedication and contribution to *Polymer* during the past 7 years.

We are pleased to welcome two new European Editors, both from the University of Bayreuth in Germany: Professors Axel Müller and Georg Krausch.

Professor Axel Müller joins the journal as European Editor for Chemistry, succeeding Jim Feast. Professor Müller was born in 1947. He received his PhD degree from Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz in 1977, working with G.V. Schulz on kinetics of anionic polymerisation. He was lecturer and professor in Mainz before he took over the chair of Macromolecular Chemistry II at the University of Bayreuth in 1999. He was a visiting scientist/professor at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry in Prague, the Institute of Polymers in Sofia, East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai and Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris. Prof. Müller's research interests include the synthesis of defined polymer structures, hybrids and nanoparticles by living/controlled polymerisation techniques, the study of the underlying mechanisms, the characterization of homo- and copolymers using 'hyphenated' chromatographic techniques and the development of polymerisation reactors for extremely fast polymerisations. He has published more than 160 papers and reviews.

Professor Georg Krausch joins the journal as European Editor for Physics. He will be succeeding Professor Ian Ward, who will retire from this post later in 2002. Professor Krausch was born in 1961 and did his Diploma work and his PhD with Professor Günter Schatz at the Physics Department of the University of Konstanz. Professor Krausch came into contact with polymer physics through multiple scientific visits to the laboratory of Professor Jacob Klein at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. During 1992–93 he was a Post Doctoral Fellow with Professor Edward J. Kramer at Cornell University. From 1993 to 1996 he worked with Professor Jürgen Mlynek at the University of

Konstanz. From 1996 through 1998 he held an associate professorship at the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich. Since 1998 he has been a Full Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. Professor Krausch has published some 110 scientific papers and reviews. His research interests include experiments and simulations on the self-organisation of polymers, particularly in thin films and near surfaces, as well as scanning probe microscopies and electron microscopy of synthetic polymers and biopolymers.

It is the aim of *Polymer* to publish the highest quality original research from all areas of polymer science and technology and to publish it as fast as possible. Considerable progress was made on both counts during the course of 2001. The rejection rate has been increased considerably and the average value is now well over 50%. 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.

To further speed up the whole publishing process we are introducing the possibility for authors to submit their manuscripts electronically to the Editor. The electronic submission option will be available in February 2002.

I would like to once again draw your attention to the several ways in which you can help us publish your paper faster. Please remember that

- the final manuscript should be complete and accompanied by disk
- figures should be submitted in the exact size in which they are intended to appear in print (maximum width 8.3 cm)
- the corresponding author's email address, telephone and fax numbers should be provided
- the proofs should be checked thoroughly and returned to us within 48 hours.

Thank you for your continuing support of *Polymer*.

With best wishes for the New Year,

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