



Publisher's Note

This is the beginning of the 45th volume (and 45th year) of our journal.

2003 was a good year for *Polymer*:

- The journal's impact factor continues its steady rise and is now 1.838 up from 1.681 and 1.529 respectively for the previous two years.
- The rejection rate remains extremely high at nearly 70%.
- *Polymer* offers extremely fast publication and free print reproduction of colour figures (at Editor's discretion).
- The journal content is continuously improving in quality and enriching in topics. For instance, papers on simulations are now present in every issue and two special issues—on (1) Modeling of Chain Conformations and Spatial Configurations and (2) Protein Conformational Simulations - are forthcoming. The polymer chemistry content is now stronger and richer. *Polymer* remains the leading journal for many areas of polymer physics.
- Feature Articles on hot topics written by both established leaders and rising stars of the polymer community started to appear in *Polymer* from 2003.
- The electronic version of all papers ever published in *Polymer* (and most other Elsevier journals)—starting with volume 1 issue No.1—has been available since the summer of 2003.
- Last but not least, the Editorial Advisory Board has been refreshed and we are pleased to welcome a number of new members.

I am delighted to be able to inform you about another development for the benefit of authors and readers of *Polymer*.

Starting from 2004, figures submitted by the authors in colour will appear in colour in the electronic version of the journal (available on ScienceDirect) even if they have been reproduced in black & white in the print edition of *Polymer*.

There is *no extra charge* for authors to participate in this new scheme (called 'colourful e-products').

Authors wishing to make use of this facility should ensure that the artwork is in an acceptable format (TIFF, EPS or MS Office files) and at the correct resolution. In addition, in order for us to offer colour online and black & white in print, **both** colour and black & white artwork (file and/or hardcopy) should be provided by the authors.

For detailed information on electronic artwork please consult our guidelines at <http://authors.elsevier.com/artwork>

To view articles online please access the journal from the ScienceDirect website: <http://www.sciencedirect.com>

Your feedback and comments are welcome.

This issue marks the start of another new initiative. To complement the six figures which are now part of the permanent cover design of *Polymer*, an additional, seventh figure, has been added. This additional 'featured' figure will come from particularly exciting papers, recently published or about to be published in *Polymer*, and will be changed every 3 months. Our very first featured figure comes from a work by Dr H. Reneker (University of Akron, USA) which is to be published in *Polymer*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all authors, referees, readers, members of the Editorial Advisory Board and Editors for their support for *Polymer* and to wish them all a Happy New Year!

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