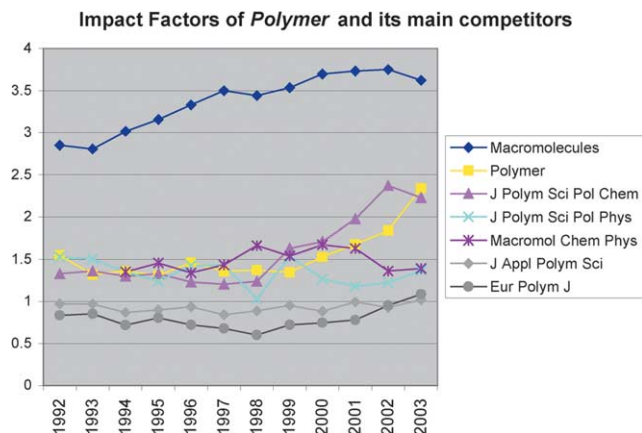


## Publisher's note

Dear Readers and Contributors to *Polymer*,

The continuously rising standards of our journal were demonstrated in the sharp increase in the latest<sup>1</sup> impact factor of *Polymer* which is now 2.340, ahead of most of its direct competitors: *Journal of Polymer Science: Polymer Chemistry*, *Journal of Polymer Science: Polymer Physics* and *Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics*. The graph below illustrated the dynamics of the impact factors of the leading broad polymer science journals (those publishing primarily full-length regular papers) since 1992.



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

Professor Stephan Förster is retiring as European Editor for Physical Chemistry as of 30 September 2005. Stephan has been in this position since November 2001 and has been one of the architects of the invigoration of *Polymer* in the last 3–4 years characterised by very high rejection rate, enriched contents and sharply rising impact factor. His contribution to the journal is very much appreciated. After 30 September 2005 Stephan Förster will continue his association with *Polymer* as a member of its Editorial Advisory Board.

I am very pleased to announce that the new European Editor for Physical Chemistry, succeeding Stephan Förster, is Professor Matthias Ballauff from the University of Bayreuth, Germany.

Professor Matthias Ballauff was born in 1952 and studied chemistry at the University of Mainz. He did his diploma work and his PhD with Professor B.A. Wolf at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the University of Mainz. From 1981 to 1983 he worked as a postdoc in the group of the late Professor P.J. Flory at Stanford University. From 1984 to 1990 he worked at the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz, first in the group of Professor G. Wegner, later in the group of Professor E.W. Fischer. From 1990 to 2003 he has been a professor of polymer science at the Polymer Institute of the University of Karlsruhe. In 2003 he moved to the University of Bayreuth where he holds the chair of Physical Chemistry I. His interests include colloidal systems, their synthesis and self-organization, small-angle neutron and x-ray scattering as well as light scattering.

As of 1 April 2005 all new submissions should be directed to Professor Ballauff while between 1 April and 30 September 2005 Professor Förster will be dealing only with manuscripts submitted to him before 31 March 2005.

I am also very pleased to inform you that Professor Takeji Hashimoto (who recently retired as Asian editor for *Polymer Physics*) remains with *Polymer* as one of its two Senior Editors for further 3 years until the end of 2007.

On behalf of Elsevier and myself, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the journal editors and all of you who published in, refereed for, read and cited *Polymer* in recent years and thus contributed to its rising impact factor. We also wish Professor Ballauff success in his editorship.

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<sup>1</sup> The latest impact factors are for the year 2003 and were made available by Thomson ISI in the summer of 2004.