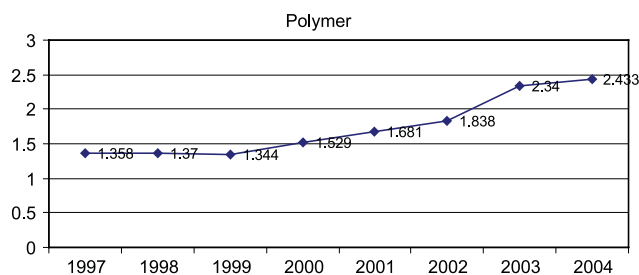


## Publisher's note

In late June 2005 the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) in Philadelphia released the latest (2004) impact factors for all the journals that they are monitoring. We are pleased to see the impact factor of *Polymer* continuing to rise. The latest (2004) value is 2.433 up from 2.340 the year before. The graph below illustrated the increase in impact factor of the journal in the last 8 years.



In November 2004 we introduced a new web-based editorial system, which helps authors, referees and editors to deal with each paper submitted in the fastest possible way. Since the overwhelming majority of submissions to the journal are now made online, from 1 September 2005 submitting a new paper to *Polymer* online via <http://authors.elsevier.com/journal/polymer> will be the only option available to authors.

I would also like to inform you about a change to our group of journal Editors. Professor Frank W. Harris has decided to retire as Chemistry Editor for the Americas. Frank has been a *Polymer* editor since July 1990—an impressive 15 years of service to the journal and the community. I would like to express our thanks to him for his loyalty to *Polymer* over such a long period of time.

I am very pleased to introduce the new Chemistry Editor for the Americas Professor S. Richard Turner from Virginia Tech, USA, who started his editorial activities on 15 August 2005.

S. Richard Turner recently retired as a Research Fellow at Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, TN, USA to accept an appointment as Director of the Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute and Research Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Virginia Tech. He graduated in

chemistry from Tennessee Tech and obtained his Ph.D. in organic polymer chemistry from the University of Florida in 1971 (with G.B. Butler) and spent one year as a post-doc in polymer chemistry in Darmstadt, Germany (with R.C. Schulz). After working in the corporate research labs of Xerox and Exxon, he joined the Research Laboratories of the Eastman Kodak Company in 1982 and transferred to the Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport in 1993.

Richard has been actively involved during his career in the broader polymer scientific community, including ACS PMSE Chairman in 1992 and General Secretary of the Macromolecular Secretariat in 1995. He has served on the editorial board of several journals. He holds 100 patents and has over 80 publications in various areas of polymer chemistry. He received a Distinguished Inventor's Award from Eastman Kodak in 1993 and was selected as a PMSE Fellow in 2002. His interests cover a broad range of polymer research topics, both fundamental and applied, including: Photoconducting polymers, water soluble polymers, ionomers, microresists, living radical polymerizations, dendritic/hyperbranched polymers, and high performance polyesters.

All new submissions from the Americas in the area of polymer chemistry should be now directed to Professor Turner. Prof Frank Harris will continue to handle all manuscripts already submitted to him before 15 August 2005. I am pleased that Frank will remain with *Polymer* as a member of its Editorial Board after his retirement as Editor on 15 November 2005.

On behalf of Elsevier, I wish Professor Turner success in his editorial activities and would like to take the opportunity to express our thanks to all authors, referees, Editors and readers for their contribution to the improving quality of *Polymer*.

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