



## Preface

On behalf of the co-editors and the many distinguished authors of this special issue in honor of Professor James E. McGrath, we want to express our sincerest gratitude to Jim for his tireless dedication to research and education in polymer science. Professor McGrath continues to impact both our profession and the advancement of polymer science, and this special issue in recognition of his upcoming 72nd birthday represents only partial evidence to his everlasting legacy. Jim has been a true visionary of polymer science and has impressively contributed to many different fields in novel ways, including anionic polymerization, silicone polymers, engineering thermoplastics, ionomers, epoxy toughening, supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> fractionation of oligomers and now polymeric membranes for fuel cells and beyond.... All these efforts have resulted in more than 100 PhD theses and over 350 highly cited publications. The chapter authors are leaders in our field and the submissions to this issue represent novel directions in polymer science, which are surely grounded on the fundamentals of polymer science that Professor McGrath has conveyed for over four decades. Professor McGrath has changed our lives in both personal and professional ways. For example, I am convinced that many of the authors now routinely drink chardonnay as a result of social interactions with Jim! On a more personal note, Jim McGrath served as my graduate research advisor during the 4 years I studied the fundamentals of polymer chemistry in Davidson 120. After

many years in industry I have now returned to Virginia Tech as a colleague of Jim—and now my own research group is located just down the hallway from my original grad student lab. I am sure many of us can quickly cite specific examples of how Professor McGrath has influenced our science and our lives—and for his immeasurable influence we are all truly thankful.

The co-editors and authors wish to thank the Editors of *Polymer* for their willingness to dedicate an issue to Professor McGrath. Although many journals are moving away from special issues, I truly think that this issue of *Polymer* and future issues that honor our scientific leaders are quite justified and represent a very visible means to express thanks and recognition. We also express our gratitude to Ms Laurie Good, who handled the many aspects of the submission and publication process; without Laurie's contributions, this special issue would not be possible.

I think you will agree that this issue reflects Professor McGrath's excitement for polymer science, his very high standards in scholarship, and his sincere interest in seeing fundamental science impact society in meaningful ways.

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