

Publisher's note

POLYMER enters its 50th year of publication

With this issue *Polymer* enters into its 50th volume and 50th year of publication. Started in March 1960 with the support of the British polymer community, *Polymer* was one of the very first scientific journals in the field and has evolved as one of the best established international forums for the polymer community. Its impact in recent years has been growing (latest impact factor 3.065¹, Fig. 1) and the spectrum of topics covered has been expanding considerably.

The graph below (Fig. 1) illustrates the development of the impact factor of *Polymer* and other broad polymer journals publishing primarily regular papers.

The Editors and referees of *Polymer* are extremely discriminative about the papers they select for publication. The rejection rate in recent years has been above 70% which means that less than 30% of all papers submitted to the journal get accepted and published.

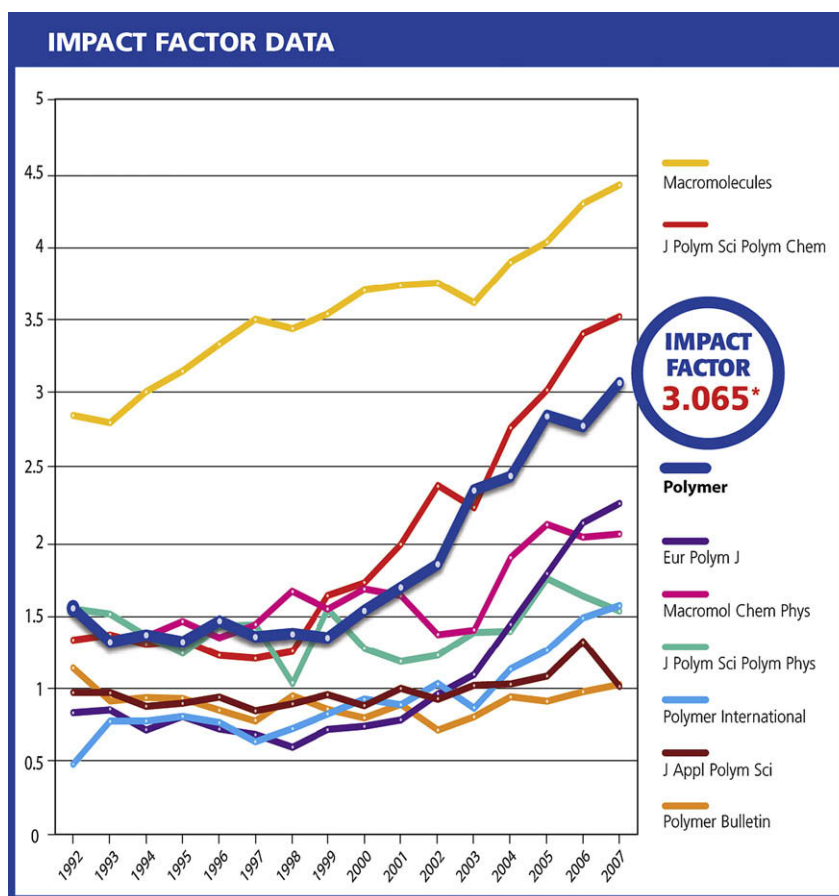


Fig. 1. Development of the impact factor of *Polymer* and other broad polymer journals publishing primarily regular papers. Journals publishing primarily reviews and/or rapid communications are not included since they show a very different citation pattern to regular journals.

¹ Journal Citation Reports, Thomson Reuters, 2008.

In addition to increasing quality, *Polymer* offers an extremely fast publication speed (papers are available online within 10 days and in print within 6–8 weeks after acceptance).

Polymer is a truly international journal, with papers submitted and published originating from as many as 73 different countries while the online version of the journal is currently available in exactly 100 countries of the world!

Polymer is proud to be the sponsor of several important awards:

- Since 1997, The John H. Dillon Medal given by the American Physical Society and its Polymer Physics Division. The 2008 winner was Kari Dalnoki-Veress and the 2009 winner has already been announced to be Venkat Ganesan.
- Since 2007, The Herman F. Mark Award given by the Polymer Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society. The latest (2007) winner was Robert Langer.
- The three newly established (in 2007) Mark Scholars Awards given by the Polymer Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society. The first winners were Kris Matyjaszewski (member of the Editorial Board of *Polymer*), Craig Hawker (member of the Editorial Board of *Polymer*) and Greg Tew.
- The newly established (in 2006) Feng Xinde Polymer Prize for Best Chinese Paper published in *Polymer*. The winners of the 2nd Feng Xinde Polymer Prize for the Best Chinese Paper published in *Polymer* during 2007 were Tao Wang, Jiajing Xu, Feng Qiu, Hongdong Zhang and Yuliang Yang for their paper *Force Spectrum of a Few Chains Grafted on an AFM Tip: Comparison of the Experiment to a Self-consistent Mean Field Theory Simulation* published in *Polymer*, vol. 48, 6170–6179 (2007).

Since 2003, *Polymer* has published more than 60 Feature Articles covering topics of considerable interest and originality, authored by both established leaders and rising stars. There is a Feature Article in each issue of the journal now and many of these papers have already made a considerable impact in the literature.

To celebrate the 50th year of publication and the forthcoming 50th anniversary of *Polymer*, we would like to invite all of you to participate in the International Symposium Frontiers in Polymer Science which will take place 7–9 June 2009 in Mainz, Germany. The three-day symposium will offer 15 plenary lectures by an outstanding panel of speakers, including two Nobel Laureates, and several poster sessions. Please visit the symposium website (www.frontiersinpolymerscience.com) for more details.

In January 2009 we are launching a special website to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Polymer* (www.polymer50.com). The site offers a range of information tracing the success of *Polymer* in this last 50 years: most cited papers, most cited authors, most downloaded papers, Feature Articles, etc. I would encourage you to visit the website and get a feeling for which authors, papers and topics contributed most to the journal during its lifetime as well as in recent years.

Many of you have played and continue to play a vital role in the life of *Polymer*. Our deeply felt gratitude goes to each one of our Editors, Editorial Board Members, referees, authors and readers – past and present – for their personal contribution to *Polymer* as an important high-quality international forum for the polymer community.

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