

Publisher's note

POLYMER celebrates its 50th birthday in March 2010

In March 2010 *Polymer* celebrates its 50th birthday. The journal was started in March 1960 with the support of the British polymer community as one of the very first scientific journals in the polymer field. In recent years, its impact has been growing steeply (latest impact factor 3.331¹, Fig. 1), the spectrum of topics covered has been expanding considerably and *Polymer* has evolved as one of the best established international forums for the polymer community.

Polymer of today is a truly international journal (with papers submitted from 73 different countries and available in 100 countries), with a very competitive rejection rate of over 70% and extremely fast publication speed (papers are available online within 10 days and in print within 6–8 weeks after acceptance).

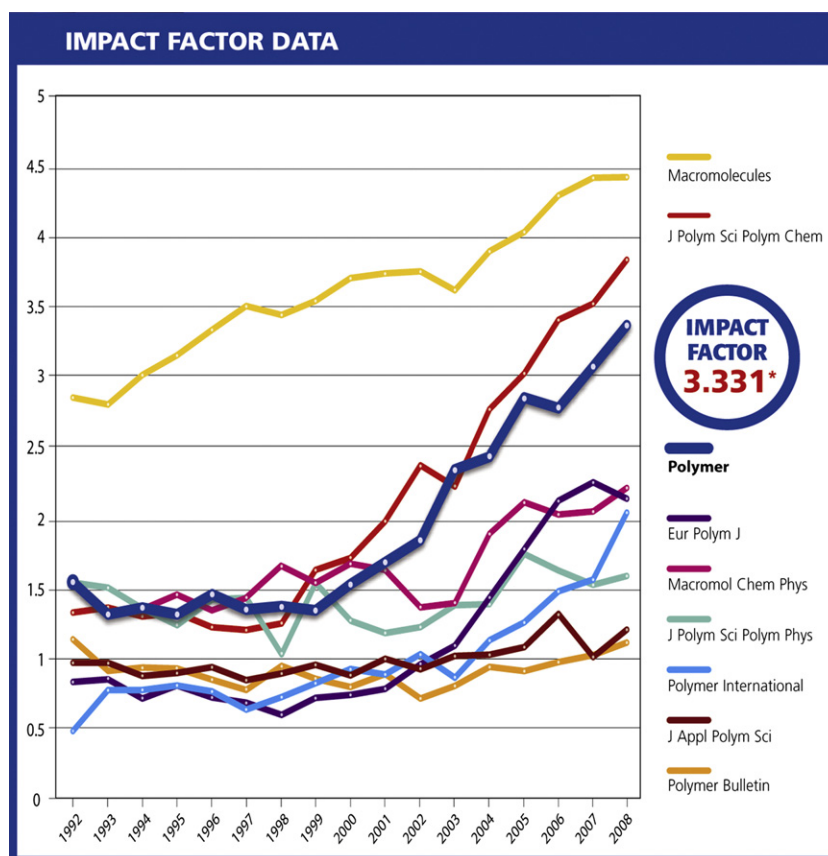


Fig. 1. Development of the impact factor of *Polymer* and other broad polymer journals publishing primarily regular papers. Journals publishing primarily reviews and/or rapid communications are not included since they show a very different citation pattern to regular journals.

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Polymer is very 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 2009 winner was Venkat Ganesan (Fig. 2). The 2010 winner has already been announced to be Yueh-Lin Loo.

- Since 2007, The Herman F. Mark Polymer Chemistry Award, the highest honour given by the Polymer Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society. The 2009 winner was Jean M.J. Fréchet (Fig. 3).
- The newly established (in 2007) Herman F. Mark Scholars Awards given by the Polymer Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society. The 2009 winners were James V. Crivello (Senior Scholar) and Karen L. Wooley (Scholar) (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2. Venkat Ganesan (the winner of the 2009 The John H. Dillon Medal), together with APS President Cherry A. Murray and Elsevier publisher Karien van Wetering. The Medal is given by the American Physical Society and its Polymer Physics Division to recognize outstanding research accomplishments by young polymer physicists who have demonstrated exceptional research promise early in their careers and it sponsored by Elsevier and *Polymer*.



Fig. 3. The winners of the 2009 Herman F. Mark Polymer Chemistry Award (Jean M.J. Fréchet) and the Herman F. Mark Scholar Awards (James V. Crivello and Karen L. Wooley), together with the President of the ACS POLY Division Dennis W. Smith, Jr. (in the middle) and Frederick R. Dammont (winner of the POLY Distinguished Service Award, first from the left). The Mark Awards recognise outstanding research and leadership in polymer science. They are given by the ACS POLY Division and sponsored by Elsevier and *Polymer*.

- The newly established (in 2006) Feng Xinde Polymer Prize for Best Chinese Paper published in *Polymer*. The winners of the 3rd Feng Xinde Polymer Prize for the Best Chinese Paper published in *Polymer* during 2008 were Si Liang, Ke Wang, Daiqiang

Chen, Qin Zhang, Rongni Du, Qiang Fu for their paper *Shear enhanced interfacial interaction between carbon nanotubes and polyethylene and formation of nanohybrid shish-kebabs* published in *Polymer*, vol. 49, 4925–4929 (2008) (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Charles Han (Asian Editor for China for *Polymer*) with the winner and nominees for the 3rd Feng Xinde Polymer Prize for Best Chinese Paper published in *Polymer* during 2008. From left to right: Charles Han, Zhen Li, Guangzhao Zhang, Jiang Zhao, Xia Dong, Feng-chih Chang and Qiang Fu (the winner).

To celebrate the 50th year of publication and the forthcoming 50th anniversary of *Polymer*, we organised the International Symposium Frontiers in Polymer Science which took place on 7–9 June 2009 in Mainz, Germany (www.frontiersinpolymerscience.com). The Symposium offered 15 plenary lectures by an outstanding panel of speakers, including two Nobel Laureates, and three poster sessions. This truly international and highly successful event was attended by 679 participants from as many as 60 countries of the world, including 203 students. At the end of the Symposium, Professors Donald R. Paul and Ian M. Ward received certificates for their outstanding contribution to the success of *Polymer*: Don as both the most prolific and most cited author in the 50-year history of the journal, Ian as both the second most prolific and most cited author in the first 50 years of the life of *Polymer* and for his exceptional 50-year long association and loyalty to *Polymer* as author, referee and editor (Figs. 5 and 6).



Fig. 5. Donald R. Paul received a certificate as the most prolific and the most cited author for the first 50 years (1960–2009) of the existence of *Polymer*.



Fig. 6. Ian M. Ward received a certificate as the second most prolific and the second most cited author for the first 50 years (1960–2009) of the existence of *Polymer* and for his 50 years of exceptionally strong contribution to *Polymer* as author, referee, Editor and Honorary Editor. He has been publishing in *Polymer* since its very first issue in March 1960.

Three poster prizes were also presented (one from each of the three poster sessions at the Symposium) to:

- Ting Li, Zuzana Benkova, Peter Cifra and Erik Nies (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Eindhoven University of Technology) for their poster entitled: *Configurational and Thermodynamic Properties of Semi-Flexible Chains Confined in a Cavity: A Parallel Tempering Molecular Dynamics Simulation Study*.
- S. Utech and M. Maskos (University of Mainz) for their poster entitled: *Multifunctional Magnetic Core-Shell Nanocomposites for Biomedical Applications*.
- Barbara Trzebicka, Pawel Weda, Barbara Gajewska, Christo Tsvetanov and Andrzej Dworak (Polish Academy of Sciences, Zabrze and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) for their poster entitled: *Nanocontainers Based upon Thermosensitive Mesoglobules*.

Due to the great success of the Symposium, we are organising a Second International Symposium Frontiers in Polymer Science from 29 to 31 May 2011 in Lyon, France. The meeting will follow the same pattern as in Mainz. More information will be available on www.frontiersinpolymerscience.com in February 2010. Please pencil this event in your 2011 calendar and please do join us in Lyon!

Since 2003 *Polymer* has published more than 80 Feature Articles covering topics of considerable interest and originality, authored by

both established leaders and rising stars. There is a Feature Article in most issues of the journal and many of these papers have already made a considerable impact in the literature.

To celebrate *Polymer*'s 50th birthday, in March 2010 we will make freely available the full text of all 80+ Feature Articles ever published in *Polymer* through the dedicated 50th anniversary website (www.polymer50.com). 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.

The size of the Editorial Advisory Board of the journal had grown considerably to over 80 members through the years. Last year a large number of prominent long serving members of the Board retired and we are in a process of inviting new members with the intention of maintaining a smaller Editorial Advisory Board of not more than 55–60 members. I would like to express our appreciation to all recently retired Board members for their loyal support for *Polymer* through the years and their contribution to its rising quality.

Polymer enjoys a large number of manuscript submissions from China. This created the need for another Associate Asian Editor for China. I am very pleased to introduce Professor Erqiang Chen as the new Associate Asian Editor for China who joined Professor Han's editorial team on 1 January 2010 and will be helping him in the handling of the polymer physical chemistry papers originating from China.

Erqiang Chen was born in 1966 in China. He received his Bachelor and Master degree in 1988 and 1991 from Fudan University in Shanghai, China. His Master degree work supervised by Prof. Haishan Bu was on the topic of single-chain single crystals. In 1994 he went to The University of Akron in USA and got his Ph.D. degree in 1998 under the mentorship of Prof. Stephen Z. D. Cheng. His dissertation work was focused on the effects of molecular architecture and configurational defect on polymer crystallization. He spent the period 1998–2000 as Postdoctoral Researcher at The University of Akron and Polymer Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), working with Prof. Stephen Z. D. Cheng and Prof. Wen-Li Wu on the confined glass transition of self-assembled diblock copolymer spheres. In 2000 he returned to China and joined the Department of Polymer Science and Engineering of Peking University in Beijing as an Associate Professor and was then promoted to Professor in 2001. He serves as the Director of the Key Laboratory of Polymer Chemistry and Physics of the Ministry of Education at Peking University. He is a member of the Executive Editorial Boards of both *Chinese Journal of Chemistry* and *Acta Chimica Sinica* published in China. He won the ICTAC-Perkin Elmer Young Scientist Award (International Confederation of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry) in 2000 and the first Feng Xinde Polymer Prize for Best

Chinese Paper published in *Polymer* (Elsevier) in 2007. Professor Chen's research interests are in the areas of condensed matter physics of polymers and materials science. His current research is focusing on polymer phase transitions and structures, including phase behaviors of novel liquid crystalline polymers with different shape persistency, crystallization and glass transition under confined microenvironments, solution self-assembly and gelation, micro- and nano-scale processing and patterning, and structure-property relationships of polymeric materials. He has published nearly 90 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.

We wish Professor Chen success in this editorial role with *Polymer*.

I would like to finish by expressing our sincere thanks to each one of our Editors, Editorial Advisory Board Members, referees, authors and readers – past and present – for their loyalty and positive contribution to *Polymer*.

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Available online 5 December 2009