

Change in Editorship

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The occasion of the retirement of Rudi Faust as editor requires a special acknowledgement in an editorial. For nine years he has served as the regional editor responsible for North and South America, which host the largest polymer science community. We understand his decision to reduce his editorial workload in order to gain more time for his research, and both his editorial colleagues and Springer gratefully acknowledge what he has done for the journal. This time-consuming work has succeeded in attracting many excellent contributions from his region. Therefore, we thank him, as he deserves significant credit for his work for *Polymer Bulletin*. Chemistry journals compete with one another to increase their impact factors and in so doing keep their scientific level high, sharpen their profiles, at the same time as being as author-friendly as possible. As Editor, Rudi Faust has contributed significantly to the success of *Polymer Bulletin* in defining its position among other journals. The key selling points are the rapid publication of original high-level results covering the entire field of polymer science, ranging from synthetic chemistry to physics, from biopolymers to electronic materials, and from surfaces to complex three-dimensional architectures. The contributions are in essence communications. Although the manuscript limit is 12 pages, authors, instead of counting words, can relatively freely decide as to which length is the most appropriate for their manuscript.

In order to meet the demands of author-friendly manuscript processing, changes within the Editorial Board and in the publishing process of *Polymer Bulletin* have been carried out over the last 15 months. As a result, *Polymer Bulletin* has seen an immense increase in submissions. This is both good news and bad news. It is good news because it reflects the visibility of the journal and offers a chance of further raising the scientific standard. It is bad news because it puts an additional load on the editors; it has become necessary to increase the number of editors to five. With that in mind, we are happy to announce that Eugenia Kumacheva, University of Toronto, Canada and Dennis Smith, Clemson University, Unites States, have accepted the invitation to serve as editors for *Polymer Bulletin*. Both were chosen from the Americas to replace Rudi Faust but also to emphasize the importance of this area for new developments in polymer sciences. An additional fifth editor will be announced within the next few months. We warmly welcome our new colleagues.

Sveral changes have taken place as regards the paper submittance and publication process. To accelerate the publication of the increasing number of manuscripts, *Manuscript Central*, an electronic submitting and review system, has been installed. Not only has this facilitated the submission process, but the authors now have the possibility of tracking the status of manuscripts online. To guarantee authors a rapid and competent reviewing process, the system of regional editors has been replaced. The manuscripts are now distributed to the editors according to the content by a newd managing editor. Markus Klapper, Max Planck Institute of Polymer Research in Mainz, Germany, has accepted this position.

We are confident that we have now further improved the service for authors. The scope of *Polymer Bulletin*, however, remains the same. The emphasis is still on the rapid publication of exciting new results in all areas of macromolecular chemistry. *Polymer Bulletin* looks forward to receiving many high-quality manuscripts from all over the world.

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Dennis Smith received his B.S. (1988) from Southwest Missouri State University and his Ph.D. (1992) from the University of Florida working with Prof. Ken B. Wagener. He was a Rhone Poulenc Graduate Research Fellow in Lyon, France and a Dow Chemical Postdoctoral Fellow (1993) in Rheinmünster, Germany. He then joined the Dow Chemical Company Central Research Laboratory (1993), working primarily in the area of advanced thermosets for microelectronics applications. Dennis Smith is a recipient of a National Science Foundation Early Faculty CAREER Award (2000) and he is a Cottrell Scholar of Research Corporation (2001). Since 2007, he has been the Vice Chair of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry. His research focus includes the synthesis and applications of fluoropolymers, polyarylenes, and polylactides, with particular emphasis on optical materials.



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Eugenia Kumacheva received her M.Sc. degree from the Institute of Chemical Technology (now Technical University) in Saint Petersburg (Russia). She carried out her Ph.D. research at the Institute of Physical Chemistry (Russian Academy of Sciences), focussing on the physical chemistry of polymers. She then worked for four years in the Department of Chemistry at the Moscow State University studying stabilization of colloid systems. Eugenia Kumacheva spent three years as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Prof. Jacob Klein at the Weizmann

Institute of Science (Israel), where she studied surface forces in thin layers of simple liquids and polymers. In 1995, she joined the group of Professor Mitchel Winnik in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Toronto, where she was involved in morphological research of multicomponent polymer systems. In 1996, Eugenia Kumacheva became an assistant professor and in 2001, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Toronto. She spent her first sabbatical in 2002 at Harvard University with Professor George Whitesides. In 2005 Eugenia Kumacheva became a full professor. Her research interest are polymers at surfaces and interfaces, advanced polymer materials, convection in polymeric and polymerizable fluids, morphology of multicomponent polymer systems, polymers and microfluidics.