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A Word from the Editor

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I A Word from the Editor

It is our great pleasure to congratulate Professor Liliane Léger on her receipt of the Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science, Sponsored by 3M, given during the society's annual meeting held in Tampa, Florida, USA, 18–21 February 2007. We also present with pleasure part 1 of a collection of papers honoring her on her receipt of the award in this issue.

We have reprinted, with the kind permission of the Adhesion Society, some details regarding the award and a brief statement of the accomplishments on which the presentation of the award to Professor Léger is based.

Louis H. Sharpe
Editor in Chief

The Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science Sponsored by 3M

Presented to
Professor Liliane Léger
University Paris Sud-Orsay
Orsay, 91405 France

“for her seminal contributions to the field of adhesion science and tribology of soft materials.”

We congratulate Professor Liliane Leger of the Laboratoire de Physique des Solides CNRS and Université Paris Sud-Orsay on being awarded the 2007 Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science, Sponsored by 3M.

Professor Leger has made several outstanding contributions to the fields of adhesion science, tribology, wetting, and the broad field of polymer physics for over a long period. One of her groundbreaking contributions is the characterization of friction of solid–fluid interfaces using laser velocimetry. These direct measurements of interfacial velocity and shear force led to profound understanding of the molecular mechanisms of polymer–solid friction, especially the transition from weak to strong slip on a wall containing grafted polymers. Specifically, she discovered that the surface and bulk chains are fully entangled at

a low shear rate, thus resulting in high friction. With the increase of the shear rate, the polymer chains elongate and disentangle, thus leading to strong slippage. She also extended her studies to simple liquids and explored the tribological characteristics as a function of surface roughness and the strength of fluid–solid interactions.

Professor Leger has also made several original contributions to the understanding of the physics of adhesive joints. She made seminal contributions to the understanding of how surface grafted polymer chains enhance adhesion of rubbery networks. Here, she carried out systematic studies of fracture using contact mechanics, which yielded interfacial fracture energies as a function of the molecular weight, grafting density, and the rate of pulling. These studies of fracture, carried out in parallel with the tribological measurements, yielded a wealth of information regarding the energetics and dynamics of the interaction of polymer brushes and rubbery networks. Recently, she has been very active in understanding the peeling behavior of pressure-sensitive adhesives from silicone release coating, in which she clearly demonstrated the contributions of the interfacial and bulk dissipation processes. Based on the studies of liquid–solid systems on one hand and solid–solid systems on the other, she has drawn several important conclusions that are long lasting and advance the science of adhesion in a significant way.

Professor Leger has enriched the field of adhesion with excellent publications and inspired several practitioners of the field. The citation of her award reads “for her seminal contributions to the field of adhesion science and tribology of soft materials.”

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