



Obituary

Yuli K. Godovsky

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden and unexpected death of Yuli K. Godovsky, head of Laboratory of Composite Polymer Materials, Russian State Scientific Center "Karpov Institute of Physical Chemistry" in Moscow, at the age of 69 on 23 May 2005.

Prof. Yuli K. Godovsky was one of the leading calorimetrists and polymer scientists in the former Soviet Union. He designed and created modern calorimetric set-ups for the investigation of the dynamic heat capacity and kinetics of phase transitions, as well as of heat effects, accompanying deformation processes in polymers. He carried out the pioneering research in this field and laid down the foundations of structural thermal physics of polymers.

He investigated thermodynamic and kinetic peculiarities of the phase separation in the polymer blends and block-copolymers with amorphous and crystalline components and established relationship between phase diagrams and dynamics of phase transitions. Together with collaborators he discovered the mesomorphic state in flexible chain non-mesogenic polyorganosiloxanes, the phenomenon of self-organization of polymer monolayers to the two-dimensional multilayers at the liquid interfaces, and demonstrated the possibility of creation of mesomorphic elastomers, glasses and thermoelastic plastics.

He started his career in 1960 with the master degree in Chemical Engineering at the Polytechnic Institute in Kiev, USSR. In 1966 he got the PhD in Polymer Physics, at the Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds USSR Academy of Sciences, Moscow, where he also became a Doctor of Science (habilitation) in 1972. Since 1975 he was the head of the Laboratory of Composite Polymer Materials in the Russian State Scientific Center "Karpov Institute of Physical Chemistry" in Moscow, where he in 1981 became a Professor of Polymer

Physics. His work was internationally recognized leading to several invitations to Western Countries, which he was allowed to follow after the Iron Curtain became more transparent. Since 1988 he was five times in Germany as a Visiting Professor at the universities of Ulm and Freiburg, 1996 at the Waseda University in Tokyo (Japan), 1997 at the university of California in Los Angeles and at the Katholieke Universteit of Leuven (Belgium) and 1998-2001 a scholar at the University of California in Santa Barbara.

He leaves many scientific publications: 3 books, over 20 reviews and book chapters, about 300 papers, which testify to an extensive and successful research activity.

The importance of his work was recognised by several awards: 1992 Hans Kupczyk Professorship, University of Ulm, Germany, 1993 International (Mettler) Award of North American Thermal Analysis Society, 1995 Alexander von Humboldt Research Award for Senior Scientists, Germany and 1996 Interperiodika/Nauka Award, Russia.

He was a member of the Working Party on Thermal Properties of Polymers (macromolecular Division) of IUPAC, the Polymer Group in the Russian Foundation for Fundamental Research, the Educational Committee of the International Confederation of Thermal Analysis (ICTAC), the Polymer Council of the Russian (USSR) Academy of Sciences. He was also a member of the editorial boards of Journal of Thermal Analysis, (regional editor in the former USSR), Colloid and Polymer Science, (regional editor in the former USSR) and Russian Polymer Science. In 1994 he was Guest Editor of a special issue of *Thermochimica Acta* on deformation calorimetry.

With his death the international scientific community lost an outstanding personality and we lost a good friend.

Günther W.H. Höhne (Ulm) and Alexander Buzin (Moscow).

Available online 23 March 2006