

K. Lunkwitz

In memoriam Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Jacobasch

**born 26 December 1936,
deceased 15 April 1998**



Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Jacobasch

In deep grief we announce the sudden death of Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Jacobasch, Scientific Director of the Institut für Polymerforschung Dresden. He passed away on 15 April 1998. We are mourning for a devoted and creative scientist and for a remarkably upright and kind man.

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H.-J. Jacobasch studied chemistry at the Dresden University of Technology (1956–1962). In 1962 he received his diploma as a coworker of K. Schwabe in the Institute of Physical and Electrochemistry and in 1966 his PhD as a coworker of G. von Hornuff in the Institute of Textile Chemistry. His doctoral thesis dealt with the fine structure of man-made fibers.

Then he left the university and started work at the Institute of Fiber Technology of the Academy of Sciences (the later Institute of Polymer Technology) in Dresden. Here, he built up a team of interface scientists who dealt with interface phenomena, first of textile fibers, later on also of polymers.

In 1977 he habilitated, and in 1987 he was appointed professor by the Academy of Sciences.

His work on textile fibers has been summarized in the book “Oberflächenchemie faserbildender Polymerer” (1984, Akademie-Verlag). An extended and updated English edition of the book was one of the projects he could not complete due to his early death.

Of particular merit are his works in the field of electrokinetic measurements. The development of a novel electrokinetic analyzer EKA, together with the team of J. Schurz at the University of Graz and A. Paar (Austria),

was a result of intensive practical work on electrokinetics. It became the basis for a lot of successive research projects, many of them dealing with technological problems.

In 1989 H.-J. Jacobasch and the other inventors (J. Schurz, M. Börner, R. Hanke) were awarded the Jacobus Henricus van't Hoff medal of the Academy of Sciences for their work on the development of the EKA.

When the research interests had extended to polymers and polymer processing the work of H.-J. Jacobasch and his group got a focus mainly on the characterization of surface phenomena such as wetting, sorption, adhesion, and reinforcement and on correlations between interfaces phenomena and properties on composites. In the last few years he successfully launched an interdisciplinary research to come to a fundamental understanding of interface and biocompatibility problems in the application of polymeric materials in medicine.

In his works H.-J. Jacobasch always tried to bridge the gap between scientific fundamental research and problems in practical applications.

In the complicated transitional period after the German unification H.-J. Jacobasch became the head of the Institute of Polymer Technology. Self-sacrificing, with everything in his

power he struggled for the survival of the institute and, consequently, for continuation of the work of its staff.

After the refoundation of the institute as Institut für Polymerforschung Dresden e. V. in 1992 he was officially appointed its scientific director, which was connected with a chair for physical chemistry of polymeric materials at the Dresden University of Technology.

Since then he was incessantly engaged in the further development of the institute, in strengthening of its

position in the research community and in intensification of the cooperation with industry and other research institutions. In addition, he considered encouragement and promotion of young scientists as one of its most important tasks.

H.-J. Jacobasch's work is preserved in two books, more than 150 papers in books and journals, and 40 patents. In addition, he gave lectures and was a visiting scientist in many countries.

He was one of the initiators and a member of the Scientific Committee

of the series of Symposia on Electrokinetic Phenomena, and member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Adhesion Science and Technology* and of *Progress in Organic Coatings*. In Germany he was a member of the executive board of the Kolloid-Gesellschaft and of a number of other boards and advisory councils.

The staff of the Institut für Polymerforschung Dresden and the community of interface scientists have lost an excellent scientist and an outstanding personality. We will not forget him.