



## Editorial

On behalf of the Editorial Board I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our authors, advisory editors, Elsevier staff and especially our referees for their work in 2003 and wish you all a very prosperous 2004. *European Polymer Journal* has undergone a great deal of change in the last year which has been accompanied by great improvements in ScienceDirect and access to back issues of not just our own journal but the whole of the Elsevier catalogue.

In last year's Editorial I stated that "the field of polymer science continues to go from strength to strength with growing importance in areas as diverse as pharmaceuticals and microelectronics as well as more traditional areas such as coatings, adhesives and as structural materials" this is no less true this year and we have seen these new important areas reflected in the submissions we receive on a daily basis.

*European Polymer Journal* has been making extensive use of the online submission and tracking system which aids the whole submission, refereeing and production process. From an editorial perspective it enables us to retrieve all information concerning submissions from any internet site. Also authors can track the status of their papers through the web interface at any time or place. The journal will continue to make full use of all improvements provided by Elsevier.

Our journal continues to attract submissions from all corners of the world and in all aspects of polymer and

macromolecular chemistry. We are striving to improve the quality at all times and have been very pleased to see a great deal of internationally recognised authors submitting some excellent work—thanks. I would also add that *EPJ* now offers full colour reproduction at no cost to the author to enhance your work.

We welcome change in all its forms and to this aim we have started to accept reviews, highlights and personal perspectives. A number of these have appeared in 2003 and this will increase over the coming year as the journal seeks to support the worldwide polymer community in their work. The citation index is increasing as are the number of downloaded articles with the rejection rate now at over 60%. The team of editors is now seeking to dramatically improve these quality measures.

Thus wherever your polymer science interests lie please send us your work for consideration and help us to keep *EPJ* on it's upward trajectory. Thanks again and let us look forward to the highs of polymer science in 2004.

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