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## Foreword

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The Ziegler–Natta catalysts, which were discovered 50 years ago, triggered rapid progress in the catalytic polymerization of olefins. The discovery of metallocene–methylalumoxane catalysts by Walter Kaminsky in later years was another tremendous impetus to olefin polymerization and gave birth to a new generation of organometallic catalysts. The catalytic polymerization of olefins is still a subject of continuous, intensive research all over the world. The improvement of conventional catalytic systems and the development of new ones have opened up remarkable opportunities for the synthesis of polymers with a controllable backbone microstructure and improved properties.

International conferences on the catalytic polymerization of olefins held over the last 10 years have become traditional. They offer scientists an exceptional opportunity to associate and to discuss the latest results, prospects, and problems in this field.

MOSPOL 2004, the first international conference on catalytic olefin polymerization held in Moscow (June 22–25, 2004), covered the following topics:

conventional catalysts,

homogeneous and supported metallocene catalysts, post-metallocene and newer catalysts, molecular modeling, and new polyolefin products and processes.

The conference gathered scientists from 21 countries, including many participants from universities, research centers, and leading manufacturers of polyolefin products. Seventeen plenary lectures and 47 oral and 94 poster reports were presented. This special issue of *Kinetics and Catalysis* publishes 23 of these contributions.

The organizers are very grateful to the sponsors of the conference: the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Foundation for Basic Research, Semenov Institute of Chemical Physics (Russian Academy of Sciences), Boreskov Institute of Catalysis (Russian Academy of Sciences), YuKOS Research and Development Center, Dow Chemical Co., Basell Polyolefine GmbH, Basell Poliolefine Italia S.p.A., Bayer AG, all who presented manuscripts, and other participants of the conference.

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