

Preface

The 5th International Workshop on Biodegradable Plastics and Polymers, June 9–13, 1998 in Stockholm, Sweden, brought together participants from academia and from industry with interest in degradable materials for use in packaging as well as in biomedical plastics.

After deep discussions when we met in China in 1988 we could announce the First Scientific Workshop on Biodegradable Plastics and Polymers in Toronto, Canada in 1989. Since then one workshop has been organized nearly every second year.

The first meeting in Canada confirmed the absence of consensus on definition and reliable testing procedures, protocols and standards. The need for concerted multidisciplinary scientific approaches was also identified. The following second, third and fourth workshops took place in Europe, Japan and USA with continuing discussions on biodegradability, synthesis of biodegradable polymers, routes to biodegradation and biodegradable polymers.

This workshop continued the exchange of ideas and experiences and the scientific program covered topics in: Synthesis and Novel Degradable Polymers; Enzymatic Polymerization; Renewable Monomers and Polymeric Materials; Kinetic and Mechanistic Aspects of (Bio)degradation; Industrial Developments in Degradable Polymers; Waste Management and Environmental Issues; Recycling and Poster Session.

At the end of the workshop we also met and discussed the foundation of the European Degradable Polymer Society (EDPS).

The advisory board of the 5th International Workshop consisted of Professors Ann-Christine Albertsson (Sweden), Emo Chiellini (Italy), Jan Feijen (The Netherlands), Gerald Scott (U.K.) and Michel Vert (France).

World-leading scientists, the pioneers as well as newcomers, accepted to come and presented recent results as invited and contributing speakers. In addition, we had a large poster presentation with representatives of the whole world. The number of participants was about 300, representing 31 different countries.

This book is the result of the workshop which brought some very interesting days and a very active exchange of opinions during the discussions.

On behalf of the advisory board, I want to express a sincere thank you to all these active contributors and all the participants. They are also associated in this book which aims at helping the settlement of the new worldwide scientific community of biodegradable polymers.

The 6th International Workshop on Biodegradable Plastics and Polymers will be held 2000 on Hawaii.

For the Advisory Board

Ann-Christine Albertsson
Chairman of the Workshop