

The Italian Macromolecules Science and Technology Association (Italian acronym: AIM) is a non profit organization founded in 1975 to foster study and research on Macromolecules. To this end, AIM organises and promotes congresses, schools, workshops and seminars on all scientific and applicative aspects which characterise this field. AIM is a member of the European Polymer Federation since its foundation (1986).

At present time AIM features about 700 members from both the academic (University, CNR) and the industrial (including medium and small industry) world, in substantially equal proportions. These two worlds, which share several common interests, are often characterised by different experiences, backgrounds, necessities and perspectives. This is a further reason for which AIM represents for them a point of reference for meeting and exchanging information.

The AIM Symposium, which takes place every two years in various Italian cities where a substantive study of Polymer based materials is undertaken, represents the most important gathering for the AIM members. The 17th AIM Symposium was held in Naples from 11 to 15 September 2005. This Symposium, also celebrating the 30th AIM anniversary, took place in the Congress Centre of the University of Naples “Federico II”, located in Via Partenope, opposite the Castel dell’Ovo. This location, enriched by the breathtaking view of the gulf of Naples and illuminated by the peculiar sunlight of the city of Naples, was undoubtedly the best place to celebrate the AIM anniversary.

The opening session of the Symposium was characterised by the award of the golden signet of the “Federico II” University to Prof. Paolo Corradini for over forty year teaching and research in Naples, where

he initiated a school dedicated to polymer materials. In his speech, Prof. Corradini recalled in brief the historical developments of Macromolecular Science in Italy and enumerated its milestones, from the first discoveries of the Nobel laureate, Giulio Natta, to the most recent achievements.

The symposium has provided a forum for scientists involved in the field to discuss new results and perspectives on novel catalysts and on synthesis, structure, characterization, and applications of polymers. In particular, the following topics were covered:

- Synthesis and Modifications of Polymers
- Structure, Properties and Macromolecular Architecture
- Compatibilization and Processing of Polymers
- Polymers for Biomedical Applications
- Functional Polymers and Polymers for Special Uses
- Polymers and Environment
- Biopolymers

The symposium was attended by 281 participants: 10.7% from the industrial world, 68.0% from University and 21.3% from CNR.

An overview on the main research subjects currently under investigation in the most relevant Italian sites has been given in 3 plenary lectures, 8 keynotes, 92 presentations and 154 posters. This volume is a collection of some of the contributions presented at the symposium.

We would like to thank the University of Naples “Federico II” for its generosity and all those who, through their presence and excellent presentations, contributed to the scientific success of the meeting and created a friendly and stimulating atmosphere.

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