

The annual meeting of the “Verein der Zellstoff- und Papierchemiker und -ingenieure” (Zellcheming) held in Wiesbaden, Germany, in June 2006 was an excellent opportunity for experts from industry and academia working in the field of cellulose to discuss recent topics. The general theme of the “Cellulose Chemists Round Table Discussion” that is organized in the frame of Zellcheming was focused on “New Cellulose Products and Composites”. Selected papers presenting the state of the art in the field are collected in this special issue of Macromolecular Symposia. This book highlights the actual trends in:

- ~ Application of bacterial cellulose
- ~ Principles of cellulose dissolution
- ~ Functionalisation of cellulose focusing on unconventional substituents and regioselectivity
- ~ Formation of new materials including aerogels and (nano)composites
- ~ Material characterization

We hope that many chemists around the world will be attracted by the information about recent developments of cellulose re-

search in Austria, France, Germany, and Slovenia that hopefully stimulates further investigations in this interesting scientific area. Many authors of the papers included in the special issue are members of the European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence (EPNOE, [www.epnoe.eu](http://www.epnoe.eu)) that intends to foster research and development in the field of polysaccharides in academia and in close connection with companies active in the field.

The editors would like to take the opportunity to express gratitude to the authors for their contribution and to the referees for their efforts and valuable comments to the manuscripts. We would like, on behalf of the authors, to thank Wiley-VCH for agreeing to publish this special issue of Macromolecular Symposia with polysaccharide related papers. In particular, Dr. Ingrid Meisel and Sibylle Meyer (Editorial Office Macromolecular Symposia) of Wiley-VCH are gratefully acknowledged for her efficiency, conscientious efforts to ensure completion of this book and her patience.

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*K. Fischer*

Prof. Dr. sc. nat. Harry  
Schleicher  
(1932 – 2006)



Professor Dr. Harry Schleicher, a remarkable chemist, passed away on August 30, 2006 after severe illness. Harry Schleicher was born in Graefentonna, Thuringia, on November 29, 1932. After high school he studied chemistry in Jena and Merseburg where he finished his diploma thesis in 1959. In the same year he started his professional career as a scientific assistant at the Institute of Fibre Research in Teltow-Seehof, at the time headed by Erich Correns. From the very beginning of his career he dealt with pulp as a raw material and with cellulose chemistry, in particular with the viscose technology. He received his PhD in 1964 at the University of Leipzig and the title Dr. sc. nat. in 1983 from the Academy of Sciences of East Germany. There, Harry Schleicher was appointed to a professorship in the same year. From 1975 to 1987 he headed the cellulose chemistry department of the Institute of Polymer Chemistry in Teltow-Seehof, from 1985 to 1990 he was deputy director of the Institute. After the German reunification and the subsequent reorientation of the research organizations

he was employed at the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Polymer Research in Teltow in 1992. Until his retirement in 1999 he was a group leader in the research field of cellulose processing.

Professor Schleicher was a widely appreciated scientist with numerous publications, several patents and many invited lectures given at international conferences. His achievements have been honoured by several scientific awards. In recent years his work was centred on the structure and reactivity of dissolving pulps on the one hand and the viscose fibre process and alternative spinning routes on the other hand. Because of his very detailed specific knowledge and his broad experience in the dissolving pulp and viscose field, Harry Schleicher was a highly estimated research partner of the related industry. As a long standing member of the ZELLCHEMING association he was engaged in the technical committee for cellulose and cellulose derivatives, giving many concise and valuable contributions. We will miss a very kind and cooperative colleague, an outstanding cellulose chemist, and one of the last viscose experts in academia.

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