

This book contains a selection of the papers presented at the International Conference on “Times of Polymers and Composites (TOP)” held on June 18–22, 2006 in Ischia, Italy. This was the third of a series of biennial workshops on this theme organised as a joint initiative of the Second University of Naples-SUN and the University of Naples Federico II. The timescales of polymers emerging from processing-properties-structure relationships are the focus of the TOP conferences. As such, the contributions covered various aspects of Polymer Science arising from different perspectives. Nevertheless, scientists from chemistry to physics to engineering areas formed an homogeneous community linked by the underlying concept of timescale of polymer based materials. The conference was organised in oral sessions opened by general lectures in the main areas of the field plus a general poster session covering a series of topics that are collected in this book as follows: Relaxation phenomena, nanocomposites, structural composites, sensors, blends, polymer degradation and chemistry. This book is organized in a way that the sequence of papers comply with the

structure of the conference, with a few papers selected from the numerous poster sessions. All papers published in this issue of *Macromolecular Symposia* have undergone the regular referee review process and final approval for publication by the Editor of the volume.

We are particularly grateful to all the participants of the conference as they soon established a warm, friendly and scientifically profitable atmosphere, the distinctive characteristic of the TOP-Conferences that was recognised all the years. We are also indebted to the outstanding scientists that served as referees of the papers in this book for their efficient job.

As usual, the conference organization was almost entirely remitted to the extra job of people belonging to the universities. Among others we are particularly grateful to Dr. Luigi Grassia, Ms. Lidia Stea and Ms. Anna Catuogno, who have contributed to organizing and running the conference, for their invaluable support.

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