

**Cover:** The IUPAC-sponsored International Symposium on “Radical Polymerization: Kinetics and Mechanism” was held in Il Ciocco (Italia) during the week September 3-8, 2006. Attended by close to 200 people from all over the world with a good balance between attendees from industry and academia, this symposium was the fourth within the series of so-called SML conferences, which are the major scientific forum for addressing kinetic and mechanistic aspects of free-radical polymerization and of controlled radical polymerization. The present symposium comprised five major themes: Fundamentals of free-radical polymerization, Heterogeneous polymerization, Controlled radical polymerization, Polymer reaction engineering, and Polymer characterization. Most of the invited lectures covering these topics are reflected as written contributions in this issue. SML IV again marked an

important step forward toward the better understanding of the kinetics and mechanism of radical polymerization, which is extremely relevant for both conventional and controlled radical polymerization and for people in academia as well as in industry.

