

50th Years Cellulose-Chemiker-Rundgespräch (“Cellulose Chemists Round Table Discussion”) organized in the frame of the “Verein der Zellstoff- und Papierchemiker und -ingenieure” (Zellcheming) marked a mile stone in the great history of research in the field of cellulose and related polysaccharides. Due to the increasing interest of scientists, engineers and the society in these renewable resources with their structural diversity and functional versatility, the “Rundgespräch” was reorganized as an international Cellulose Symposium. In 2008, the 50th Cellulose Symposium took place in Wiesbaden, Germany, and was included in the 103rd Zellcheming Meeting in the period of June 24–26. The scientific focus of the Cellulose Symposium was “Novel aspects of the renewable resource cellulose” discussing recent trends in:

- Cellulose raw materials
- Conversion of cellulose under homogeneous reaction conditions
- Shaping of cellulose using ionic liquids
- Novel materials based on cellulose and cellulose derivatives.

The presentations and discussions are a clear indicator that cellulose and related polymers are one of the most important

renewable resources for the future and very promising starting materials for highly engineered products and materials. Selected contributions of this interesting and fruitful meeting are collected in this issue of Macromolecular Symposia. Moreover, pioneers of the cellulose research, Prof. Dr. B. Philipp and Prof. Dr. J. Schurz contributed to the special issue with very interesting insights into the scientific and organizational design of the Cellulose-Chemiker-Rundgespräch within the 50 years of a very successful development. There is no doubt, cellulose and related polysaccharides as well as the Cellulose Symposium will have a bright future.

The editors would like to thank the authors for their contribution and the referees for their effort and valuable comments to the manuscripts. We are, also on behalf of the authors, indebted to Wiley-VCH for agreeing to publish this special issue of Macromolecular Symposia with polysaccharide related papers. In particular, Mrs. Sibylle Meyer (Managing Editor Macromolecular Symposia) of Wiley-VCH is gratefully acknowledged for her efficiency, conscientious efforts to ensure the completion of this book and for her patience.

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