

The Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic organizes every summer Prague Meetings on Macromolecules, which are focused on special topics of polymer chemistry and physics. The papers included in this volume of Macromolecular Symposia were delivered at the 48th Microsymposium "Polymer Colloids: From Design to Biomedical and Industrial Applications", held in Prague, July 20-24, 2008. The Microsymposium was chaired by D. Horák from the Institute and co-chaired by J. Šňupárek from the University of Pardubice. The meeting was organized by the Institute under the auspices of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and in close cooperation with leading people of the International Polymer Colloids Group and members of the International Advisory Board of the Microsymposium.

191 participants from 28 countries demonstrated the progress in polymer colloid science focusing on new methods in design, development, modeling, charac-

terization, and application of advanced polymer colloids both in industry and life sciences, such as biomedicine and biomedical diagnostics. Biomedical applications and polymers for drug and gene delivery have become an important issue of the host Institute in Prague. The program coverage was granted by a number of top specialists as keynote and main lecturers. Ten keynote lectures and 14 main lectures were presented by invited speakers, 40 special lectures and additionally 96 poster presentations were provided by other participants.

A relevant part of these presentations are now reported in an extended form in this volume. It is our belief that the content of this Macromolecular Symposia volume provides an up-to-date contribution to scientific research and new applications of polymer colloids. The guest editors would like to express their thanks to all contributors to the volume.

D. Horák
J. Šňupárek
J. Kahovec



Participants of the conference