

The 51st Cellulose Symposium was organized in the frame of the 104th Annual Meeting of the Verein der Zellstoff- und Papierchemiker und –ingenieure” (Zellcheming). Again, the meeting took place in Wiesbaden, Germany, in the period of June 23 to 24, 2009. The increasing interest of people from academia and industry in utilization of renewable resources becomes more and more obvious. Thus, the Cellulose Symposium could be established as an international meeting. Not only authors from Germany but also from Finland, Japan, and Austria presented their results in oral- and poster contributions. The scientific focus of the Cellulose Symposium was “Biological Aspects of the Utilization of Lignocellulosic Materials” discussing recent trends in:

Polysaccharide-based materials for wound dressing and antimicrobial materials
Polysaccharide-based hydrogels
Preparation of polysaccharide products by chemical functionalization
Utilization of alternative solvents for cellulose, e.g. ionic liquids

The presentations have clearly shown that the utilization of renewable resources in our daily life becomes more and more

important. In particular cellulose can be found in many applications and it is a very promising starting material in the frame of sustainable development.

Selected contributions to this interesting and fruitful meeting are collected in this issue of Macromolecular Symposia. It is worth to note that many authors cooperate within the European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence (EPNOE, www.epnoe.eu) and are involved in the Marie Curie Initial Training Network “Shaping and Transformation in the Engineering of Polysaccharides” (STEP-ITN”).

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