

The biannual European Polymer Congress is one of the main activities of the European Polymer Federation, the umbrella organization of the European national polymer societies. Since its inception in Lyon in 1986, this congress series has developed to become one of the major events in polymer science. The twelfth EPF congress was held in July 12-17 2009 in Graz, Austria, attracting around 1'000 participants from academia and industry. Seven leading plenary as well as 35 keynote and 61 invited speakers, 290 oral contributions as well as 600 poster presentations constituted the scientific framework of the EPF'09 congress, continuing the success story of this event series. Its international visibility was also reflected by the participants' origins (Europe without Austria: 62%, Austria: 15%, international without Europe: 23%).

The contributions covered a broad range of subjects and concepts, illustrated by the six sessions that were organized by (at least) one Austrian and one non-Austrian European researcher, namely Polymers from Bioresources (by Pedro Fardim, Finland, and Anton Huber), Polymers for Medical Applications (by Ann Christine Albertsson, Sweden, Stanislaw Slomkowski, Poland, and Robert Liska), Polymers in Electronics (by Michael Turner, United Kingdom, Emil J.W. List, and

Christian Slugovc), Micro- and Nanostructured Polymeric Systems (by Rachel O'Reilly, United Kingdom, Soeren Hvilsted, Denmark, Otto Glatter, and Gregor Trimmel), Engineering Polymers and Polymer Technology (by Bela Pukanszky, Hungary, and Wolfgang Kern), and General Topics in Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics (by Nikos Hadjichristidis, Greece, Franz Stelzer, and Frank Wiesbrock).

The subsequent call for papers received an overwhelming response. 84 peer-reviewed articles focussing on state-of-the-art research in the fields of Polymer Synthesis, Photochemistry, Polymer Characterization, Polymer Networks, Micro- and Nanostructures, Biopolymers & Biocompatible Polymers, Functional Polymers, Biomedical Applications, Polyolefins & Polymer Processing, Composite / Hybrid Materials, and Mechanical Polymer Properties have been collected in this issue of Macromolecular Symposia.

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*Franz Stelzer, Frank Wiesbrock*