Preface

This volume of Macromolecular Symposia contains a selection of papers presented at the 20th Polymer Networks Group Conference held in Goslar, Germany, from August 29th to September 2nd, 2010. The meeting brought together nearly 200 participants from 35 countries, thus demonstrating the widespread and enduring interest in polymer networks as an exciting interdisciplinary field stretching from networks in biology or based on biopolymers, over stimulus-responsive gels, rubbery materials, filled cross-linked systems, controlled formation of networks, all the way to reversible and self-healing systems, thereby covering all aspects from theory and simulation to material properties and applications.

The conference was jointly organized by Wilhelm Oppermann, Diethelm Johannsmann, Arne Langhoff (all Clausthal University of Technology), and Gert Heinrich (IPF Dresden and Dresden University of Technology). The support of the members of the international advisory board and the PNG committee in putting together an exciting program was very helpful. Financial support from the German Science Foundation (DFG), Clausthal University of Technology, Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research Dresden, and the State of Lower Saxony has been essential and is gratefully acknowledged. We thank the authors of the papers for their exciting contributions, and we also acknowledge the colleagues who reviewed the manuscripts.

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