

The 11<sup>th</sup> European Symposium on Polymer Blends was held in Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain, on March 25–28<sup>th</sup> 2012. Previous symposia were celebrated in Bruges (1984, 2005), Mainz (1999), Lyon (2002), Palermo (2007) and Dresden (2010) and the next one is expected to take place in Lyon in 2014. The success of this series of symposia indicates that the field of polymer blends from both research and applied points of view holds importance.

More than 180 participants from 30 countries, most of them from Europe, were present in the three-day meeting in the Kursaal Congress Centre in Donostia-San Sebastián. The program included 92 lectures and 66 posters. A strong importance was given to the posters session and there was an award, named after Prof. Iñaki Mondragon, given to the chosen as the best poster.

The International Scientific Committee helped to select, from those submitted by its authors, the most significant presentations to be collected in this Macromolecular Symposia volume. The topics include lectures and posters and have been classified in seven sections:

1. Structure-properties relationships.
2. Nanostructured and nanofilled blends and copolymers.
3. Blend compatibilization and reactive processing.
4. Functional blends.
5. Biomass-based blends.
6. Specific blend applications and recycling.
7. Theory and modeling.

Both the Congress and this volume are dedicated to Dr. Iñaki Mondragon, former Chairman of the 11th European Symposium on Polymer Blends, Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of

the Basque Country, founder and Head of the ‘Materials & Technologies’ Group, who unexpectedly passed away on 13th February 2012 at the age of fifty-seven, constituting a loss that heavily impacted in many people’s lives. As a world-class academic, scientist, mentor and collaborator, his contributions were - without exception - exemplary. The world’s community of material science has lost one of its prolific researchers.

Professor Mondragon gave courses, organized and participated in numerous international conferences in Europe, Asia and South and North America. He was the director of the Masters and PhD program on “Renewable Materials Engineering” at UPV/EHU, where he supervised 30 PhD theses as well as several Master theses. Professor Mondragon published over 300 articles in refereed journals, collaborated in writing and editing books, and produced a considerable number of technical reports of projects.

This Editor, who also functioned as the Chairperson of the 11th Symposium on Polymer Blends, would like to express her warm feelings towards his family and her sincere appreciation to all the Institutions involved in the organization of the Symposium; to the members of the International Scientific and Organizing Committees; to the Post-doctoral and PhD students from POLYMAT and “Materials & Technologies” groups who supported the development of the meeting, and finally to the lecturers and to all the people who contributed in making this symposium a relevant event for the international materials community.

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