

2011 marked an important and exciting landmark year for the Symposium series on Ionic Polymerization (IP) sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. IP'11 was held at The University of Akron (UA), USA, July 10–15, 2011. Every two years, polymer scientists from academia and industry gather at this symposium to explore the fascinating world of ionic polymerization and related processes. Organized by Professors Judit E. Puskas (UA, USA) and Robson F. Storey (The University of Southern Mississippi, USA), IP'11 returned, after 35 years, to Akron, the very first venue of this Symposium series. At IP'11, a mini-symposium with key-note lectures was organized to honor Professor Joseph P. Kennedy, a pioneer of carbocationic polymerization and the founder and first chair of this symposium. The scientific program of the six-day event included 43 invited lectures, a unique “Rising Star” session for 14 selected young scientists and a poster session with 48 entries. The organizers welcomed 166 attendees from 16 countries.

This special edition of Macromolecular Symposia collects ten of the key-note and invited lectures presented at IP'11. These invited papers authored by the leading researchers in the field of ionic (anionic and cationic) and radical polymerization present research related to reaction control, reaction kinetics, chain functionalization, polymer morphology, and material characterization.

I would like to thank all the contributing authors and reviewers, and Professors Puskas and Storey who invited me to be the guest editor for this special edition. We would like to thank Macromolecular Symposia and Ms. Sibylle Meyer, Managing Editor, for working with us on this special edition. On a personal note, I hope our readers will find the journey of discovery in polymer science as enjoyable as I did!

*Goy Teck Lim, Ph.D.*

Managing Engineer, Polymer Science and Materials Chemistry Exponent, Inc.