

Macromolecules

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Editorial

40 Years of *Macromolecules*

2007 represents the 40th year of publication for *Macromolecules*—a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of all who have contributed so much to the success of the journal. Today *Macromolecules* is the acknowledged leader in the field of polymer science. In 2005, for example, articles in *Macromolecules* were cited over 70 000 times, more than twice the nearest competitor, and our ISI Impact Factor exceeded 4.0 for the first time. A volume of *Macromolecules* today includes about 1400 papers, comprising almost 11 000 pages in 26 issues. This may be compared with Volume 1, which included 115 papers and 557 pages spread over six issues. In addition to the highest standards, we take pride in the rapidity with which manuscripts are handled. In 2005, the median time from submission of an article to receipt of reviews was only 6 weeks; the median time from receipt to acceptance was 12 weeks. Furthermore, production times have also decreased significantly; the median time from receipt to appearance in print is about 20 weeks and even less for the Web version.

The success of the journal is the result of the efforts of many: authors, reviewers, editors and their assistants, and the American Chemical Society Publications staff. Over the past 40 years many distinguished scientists have published their work in the journal. I am pleased to recognize the 10 individuals who, according to our records, have authored or coauthored the most papers in *Macromolecules*. They are given in Table 1. The list of the “Top 40” authors may be found at a special Web page, soon to be accessible through the journal home page (<http://pubs.acs.org/journals/mamobx/index.html>). Similarly, it is a pleasure to recognize the 10 most cited papers from *Macromolecules* (Table 2). It is a source of satisfaction, but no surprise, that these papers span the full spectrum from theory to chemical synthesis and physical experiments. A list of the “Top 40” cited articles may also be accessed via the home page.

For various reasons that I am sure you can appreciate, I will resist the temptation to name the top 10 reviewers! However, the role of the reviewers is crucial and often underappreciated. In a typical year over 2000 individuals review at least one

Table 1

| author | number of publications |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Takeshi Endo | 217 |
| Robert Jérôme | 200 |
| Krzysztof Matyjaszewski | 188 |
| Takeji Hashimoto | 179 |
| Lew Fetters | 169 |
| Nikos Hadjichristidis | 148 |
| Tom Russell | 143 |
| Wayne Mattice | 130 |
| Bill MacKnight | 125 |
| Mitch Winnik | 117 |

manuscript, and about 50 individuals review 10 or more. It may also be helpful to quash a particularly persistent rumor; it is *not* true that reviewers 65, 66, 67, and 68 each do 2000 reviews per year!

Macromolecules was created 40 years ago in response to a widely recognized need within the community, for a Society-sponsored journal that would set the standard for scientific quality while providing affordable individual subscriptions. Although much has changed within the technical publishing arena in the intervening years, these goals are no less vital today. It should be emphasized that, in these times of shrinking institutional library budgets, *Macromolecules* and all ACS journals not only provide industry leadership in terms of value, but in so doing exert significant downward pressure on subscription costs for all commercial publishers as well. “Open access” is a subject about which one hears a great deal these days. There are many facets to this complicated issue, but making scientific content as readily and inexpensively accessible as possible is clearly a goal on which we can all agree. To this end, *Macromolecules* and the other ACS journals offer 50 free downloads for each article (from a unique URL that authors may post on their Web sites) within 1 year of publication and unlimited access thereafter. This “for all practical purposes” open access policy is termed ACS Articles on Request. If an author desires completely open access, then he or she may pay a one-time fee via the ACS AuthorChoice option, which provides immediate and unrestricted Web access at the time of

Table 2

| authors | title | reference (year, vol, page) | total cites |
|--|--|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Leibler, L. | Theory of Microphase Separation in Block Copolymers | 1980, 13, 1602 | 1732 |
| Kato, M.; Kamigaito, M.; Sawamoto, M.; Higashimura, T. | Polymerization of Methyl Methacrylate with the Carbon Tetrachloride Dichlorotris(triphenylphosphine)ruthenium(II) Methylaluminum Bis(2,6-di- <i>tert</i> -butylphenoxide) Initiating System: Possibility of Living Radical Polymerization | 1995, 28, 1721 | 1091 |
| DeGennes, P. G. | Conformations of Polymers Attached to an Interface | 1980, 13, 1069 | 998 |
| Georges, M. K.; Veregin, R. P. N.; Kazmaier, P. M.; Hamer, G. K. | Narrow Molecular Weight Resins by a Free-Radical Polymerization Process | 1993, 26, 2987 | 926 |
| Nishi, T.; Wang, T. T. | Melting-Point Depression and Kinetic Effects of Cooling on Crystallization in Poly(vinylidene fluoride)–Poly(methyl methacrylate) Mixtures | 1975, 8, 909 | 817 |
| Daoud, M.; Cotton, J. P.; Farnoux, B.; Jannink, G.; Sarma, G.; Benoit, H.; Duplessix, R.; Picot, C.; DeGennes, P. G. | Solutions of Flexible Polymers: Neutron Experiments and Interpretation | 1975, 8, 804 | 800 |
| Chiefari, J.; Chong, Y. K.; Ercole, F.; Krstina, J.; Jeffery, J.; Le, T. P. T.; Mayadunne, R. T. A.; Meijs, G. F.; Moad, C. L.; Moad, G.; Rizzardo, E.; Thang, S. H. | Living Free-Radical Polymerization by Reversible Addition–Fragmentation Chain Transfer: The Raft Process | 1998, 31, 5559 | 766 |
| Wang, J. S.; Matyjaszewski, K. | Controlled Living Radical Polymerization: Halogen Atom Transfer Radical Polymerization Promoted by a Cu(I)/Cu(II) Redox Process | 1995, 28, 7901 | 766 |
| Milner, S. T.; Witten, T. A.; Cates, M. E. | Theory of the Grafted Polymer Brush | 1988, 21, 2610 | 715 |
| Miyazawa, S.; Jernigan, R. L. | Estimation of Effective Interresidue Contact Energies from Protein Crystal Structures: Quasi-Chemical Approximation | 1985, 18, 534 | 660 |

online publication. These are just recent examples of the way in which we are responding to the needs of the community, while maintaining the highest standards.

It is also appropriate to recognize the many distinguished scientists who have served the journal as Editors and Associate Editors in the past. This includes especially the founding editor, Stretch Winslow, and his colleagues Frank Bovey and Walter Stockmayer. It was their judicious and painstaking implementation of the original vision that established the success of the journal. My immediate predecessor, Bob Lenz, navigated a period of rapid growth of this journal as well as facilitated the launch of our sister journal, *Biomacromolecules*, which has itself grown rapidly to be the leader in its field. Others who have served with distinction as Associate Editors of *Macromolecules* include John Stille, Herbert Morawetz, John Rabolt, John Bandler, and Michael Rubinstein.

My current colleagues and I are eager to serve the *Macromolecules* community in the coming years. We welcome your manuscript submissions; we appreciate your prompt and constructive reviews; we value your advice and suggestions for improvement. We encourage you to visit the special 40th anniversary Web page, and we invite you to attend a special symposium at the Fall 2007 ACS Meeting in Boston, “40 Years of *Macromolecules*”.

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