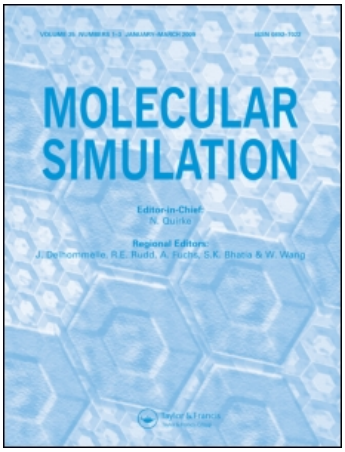

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Guest Editorial

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GUEST EDITORIAL

The computer simulation of macromolecular systems has experienced very rapid progress in the last decade; with the advent of large computers as well as the development of new algorithms which make the simulation of real systems an attainable goal. The practical value of such work cannot be stressed enough, and the existence of at least three different software packages marketed primarily to industrial professionals is suitable testament to this fact. Recent pioneering work has allowed the simulation of polymeric glasses, the Monte Carlo simulations of chains with realistic architectures, as well as the calculation of the free energies and the phase diagrams of these soft condensed phases with fully delineated molecular structures. In view of this progress it might appear that the field of polymer modeling is mature: rather, it is a field still under development with many problems, such as polyelectreolytes, which have not even been explored perfunctorily. It is with this background that the current issue of *Molecular Simulation* was assembled: a diverse field of experts have contributed papers ranging from diblock copolymers, to electrophoresis and to biopolymers. It is hoped that these articles will provide a vision of a future in which molecular modeling can supply researchers with effective tools for solving important practical problems.

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