



Publisher's Note

Dear Contributors and Readers of *Polymer*,

From this issue we are introducing a new type of paper - Feature Articles - to *Polymer*. These will be short/medium-length reviews (typically 10-20 print pages) highlighting the contributions of the author's group to an exciting topic of considerable current interest and originality. Topics for the Feature Articles are usually proposed by the journal Editors who then invite the authors. Both established leaders and rising stars from different parts of the international polymer community have been invited by the Editors of *Polymer* to produce Feature Articles for the forthcoming issues of the journal.

We are aiming at offering you not more than one Feature Article per issue. Each Feature Article will be prominently placed as the very first paper in that issue and will also include a photo and brief biographical note for each author.

I am very pleased to introduce our very first Feature Article entitled "Recent developments in the formation, characterization and simulation of micron and nano-scale droplets of amorphous polymer blends and semi-crystalline polymers" by Drs Bobby G. Sumpter, Donald W. Noid and Michael D. Barnes from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the USA. The paper was produced by invitation of Professor J.E. Mark.

Polymer aims to publish the highest quality original

research from all areas of polymer science and technology and to publish it as fast as possible. The rejection rate is extremely high: 70% during the past year. The impact factor continues to rise: the latest (2001) figure is 1.681 against 1.529 for the year 2000 and 1.344 for 1999. Papers in *Polymer* appear in print within 6-8 weeks from acceptance and are available electronically 2-3 weeks earlier, unless the author delays sending back the corrected proofs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all authors, referees and journal editors for their contribution towards the success of *Polymer*.

You can now submit your paper to *Polymer* online and we strongly encourage you to use this facility. This eliminates the need for mailing hard copies of the manuscript and the referees' reports between authors, editors and referees and can potentially shorten the overall publishing process by 3-5 weeks. To submit your next manuscript online, please go to the journal home page www.elsevier.com/locate/polymer and follow the link to electronic submission.

Thank you for your continuing support of *Polymer*.

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