

Editorial January 2014

This is the first issue of *e-Polymers* with its new publisher De Gruyter, a leading scientific publisher who have been producing books and journals for more than 260 years. De Gruyter is dedicated to serving as a communication platform for chemistry and materials science in general, and for polymer science in particular. Polymer science is for De Gruyter an integral key discipline, as it covers many different scientific fields in fundamental research and is an important accelerator for new technical developments. *e-Polymers* was selected by De Gruyter as it is already well established in the community and has great potential. The journal was founded in May 2001 under the auspices of the European Polymers Federation and served as open access journal for more than 10 years. *e-Polymers* was and is devoted to its readers, authors, and reviewers, as such *e-Polymers* is fortunate that it can now cooperate with the excellent publishing team in De Gruyter, which fulfils the demands of modern publishing service – being fast, efficient, and transparent. The *e-Polymers* editorial staff is highly diverse as regards nationalities and ages which reflects the will to serve as a communication platform for polymer science for experienced and new researchers world-wide. *e-Polymers* will be published six times per year in a high-quality printed version and online. For accelerated publication of research results, all accepted manuscripts will be published online ahead of print. Contributions to *e-Polymers* published before 2014 will be available in an open-access form on the *e-Polymers* website. Some special editorial features of *e-Polymers* are free of charge such as: color figures and selected front cover exposure of particularly excellent contributions as chosen by the Editor.

e-Polymers welcomes reviews, feature articles, and original papers from polymer science and related fields. Polymer science is not monolithic. It covers monomer and polymer synthesis and catalysis, modeling polymerizations, polymers in special stages like dispersions, gels, or solid state, polymer modifications, speciality polymer synthesis like block and graft copolymerizations, speciality polymers like dendrimers, hyperbranched or interpenetrating networks, controlled or confined polymerizations, polymer materials in terms of polymer processing, polymer composites, polymer nanomaterials such as nanoparticles and nanofibers, polymer composites, polymers for applications in energy storage and conversion, electrooptical polymers, polymers for medicine, pharmacy, agriculture, food, cosmetics, and packaging. *e-Polymers* sees its task as disseminating new knowledge of these and related topics

to the community using the best research. The editorial staff of *e-Polymers* represented by the Editors-in-Chief Andreas Greiner and Seema Agarwal, the Editor Ji Jian and by the members of the distinguished Editorial Board, Felix Schacher, Susanta Banerjee Prasad Shastri, Stephen Eichhorn, Zhu Meifang, Yasuhiko Iwasaki, and Stan Slomkowski, and the Managing Editor Karin Lason will be receptive to your contributions, concerns, and suggestions as readers, contributors, and reviewers. The editorial team will particularly rely on the support of reviewers which is crucial for any peer-reviewed journal. Therefore the cooperation of authors, the editorial team, and the reviewers will be the particular focus of *e-Polymers* in order to assure an excellent publication service. The *e-Polymers* editorial team is open to any suggestions from the community and we sincerely hope that we can serve the community in the best possible way to ensure your contributions have a significant impact on science.

The first issue of *e-Polymers* opens with a review on electrospinning of nanofibers, which covers a field with a viral impact. More than 2000 publications and patents are presently published annually and it is near to impossible to follow all these publications. Therefore, reviews by experts such as F. Cengiz Çallıoğlu on electrospinning dextran nanofibers are extremely interesting. The contributions on antimicrobial bionanocomposites by A. Katbab et al. and biocidal hydantoin containing polystyrene by H. Kaczmarek et al. cover another important area as antimicrobial/biocidal materials may be the answer to the increasing problem of bacterial resistance to antibiotics. The flame retardancy of polyethylene composites by CNTs and their impact on mechanical properties contributed by H. Ibnelwaleed et al. is of importance due to the increasing restrictions for classical flame retardancy additives. J. Zhou et al. report on responsive gels – a highly topical research area for functional and composite materials. The synthesis of PVC graft copolymers by RAFT polymerization of vinyl pyridine represents an exciting approach to a new class of materials. These and other very interesting articles can be found in the first issue of *e-Polymers*. We hope that you will enjoy reading these contributions, and that you will communicate or cooperate with the authors, to build your research on these results, and that you will submit your own research to *e-Polymers* for future publication.

S. Agarwal, A. Greiner, J. Jian on behalf of the editorial team