
Reports from IUPAC-Sponsored Symposia

37th International Symposium on Macromolecules (MACRO '98), 13–17 July 1998, Gold Coast, Australia

This meeting was the IUPAC World Polymer Congress '98, and with 1 060 participants from 46 countries it had truly international representation. Three hundred sixty of the attendees were from Australia, and they made all participants very welcome.

Lecture rooms and poster areas based in the Conrad Jupiters Hotel, Gold Coast, Queensland were excellent, and the facilities were serviced efficiently. Accommodations were provided in the host hotel and in other hotels in the vicinity of the sea coast. As Gold Coast is a holiday area and the Congress was held in the off-season, convenient, excellent accommodations were plentiful and reasonably priced.

The opening ceremony was quite impressive with 46 national flags around the room. There were five plenary lectures, 540 contributed papers, 430 posters, and three workshops. Poster sessions and lectures were all well attended, discussions were lively, and the symposium was very active scientifically. Outstanding speakers included E. Rizzardo, CSIRO, Clayton South, Australia; W. J. Feast, University of Durham, England, UK; and A. R. Khokhlov, Moscow State University, Russia.

The social program was extremely well organized, with tours offered each day to the surrounding countryside. The welcoming evening and symposium banquet were outstanding. A memorial dinner for the late Professor J. H. O'Donnell, original founder and designer of the symposium, was a moving tribute.

Symposium Chairman Professor R. Gilbert and Organizing Committee Secretary Dr. P. Pomery are to be commended for presenting a Congress of the highest quality in terms of topics, speakers, and organization.

Professor Robert F. T. Stepto
University of Manchester
Vice President, IUPAC Macromolecular Division (IV)

18th Discussion Conference on Mechanical Behavior of Polymers, 20–23 July 1998, Prague, Czech Republic

This conference was the 56th meeting in the series of Prague Meetings on Macromolecules, organized by the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry of the Acad-

emy of Sciences of the Czech Republic under the auspices of the IUPAC Macromolecular Division.

The aim of the conference was to provide a forum for both academic and industrial experts in the mechanical behavior of solid polymers, both synthetic and natural. Special emphasis was placed on structural understanding of macroscopic mechanical behavior.

Conference topics included the following:

- interrelations between structural hierarchy and mechanical behavior
- analysis of strength and toughness for composition and blends
- effects of degradation on mechanical properties
- new experimental approaches, including online structural characterization in mechanical testing, acoustic emission, fractoemission, and related techniques

These topics were covered in 10 plenary (main) lectures, 19 special lectures, and 74 poster contributions. In addition, 2 panel discussions were organized on:

- mechanical behavior of high-performance polymers (discussion leader: A. Hiltner, USA), and
- strength and toughness of oriented polymer systems, composites, and blends (discussion leader: H. H. Kausch, Switzerland)

The program committee, with Dr. Miroslav Raab as Conference Chairman, organized a very interesting scientific program with many well-known speakers. Attendees included 127 participants from 24 countries and 88 guests from abroad.

The main lectures covered many aspects of morphology, mechanical properties, and micromechanical mechanisms of polymers. Principal speakers and topics included the following:

- E. Baer, A. Hiltner (USA)
Hierarchical Structure and Mechanical Properties of Polymeric Materials
- E. G. Clutton, L. J. Rose, G. Capaccio (UK)
Structural Features and Fracture Phenomena in Polyethylene
- G. K. Elyashevich (Russia)
Deformation Behavior and Mechanical Properties of Hard Elastic and Porous Films of Polyethylene
- M. Matsuo (Japan)
Gelation/Crystallization Mechanism of Crystalline Polymer Solutions and Morphology and Drawability of Resultant Films

- A. Galeski, Z. Bartczak (Poland)
Plastic Deformation of Crystalline Polymer Blends
- F. La Mantia (Italy)
Mechanical Properties of Recycled Polymers
- P. J. Lemstra (Netherlands)
Processing for Ultimate Properties
- M. Raab (Czech Republic)
Feedback in Mechanical Behavior of Polymers
- S. Seidler, W. Grellmann (Austria/Germany)
Application of Resistance Concept to Toughness Characterization of High-Impact Thermoplastic
- J. L. Kardos, J. C. Halpin (USA)
Predicting Strength and Toughness of Short-Fiber Composites
- G. H. Michler (Germany)
New Toughening Mechanisms of Polymers

The conference took place in an excellent, friendly atmosphere. In addition to the scientific program, there was a welcome reception, a very interesting excursion to historic places in the surroundings of Prague, a conference dinner, and a closing ceremony. All guests surely enjoyed this very successful event in the series of the Prague Meetings.

Professor Dr. G. H. Michler
Associate Member, IUPAC Commission on
Polymer Characterization and Properties (IV.2)

21st IUPAC International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products (ISCNP-21), 11–16 October 1998, Beijing, China

This symposium was organized by the Chinese Chemical Society in Beijing. The meetings were held in the Modern Symposium Halls of the Beijing Friendship Hotel.

The scientific program of the meeting consisted of plenary lectures, invited session lectures, oral presentations, and posters. A broad range of aspects of natural product chemistry was discussed. Notably, the presentations dealt with structure determination by modern spectroscopic techniques, chemical and combined chemical/biocatalytic synthesis, and biological evaluation of diverse types of natural products. A plenary lecture by the Nobel laureate J.-M. Lehn, on the subject of “molecular recognition”, in the broadest sense of the term, was a highlight of the symposium. The scientific

level of the program was, on the whole, very good. A special reference must be made to the poster presentations, which were of impressive quality. The fact that many of the posters were contributed by young Chinese chemists attests to the high level of activity in the area of natural product chemistry that is in progress within the country.

Foreign participation, including accompanying persons, could be regarded as reasonable, considering the expense of traveling to the meeting from many parts of the world. The prospect of combining a touristic visit to China with a conference is always attractive, and that clearly appealed to many of the foreign participants.

Symposium facilities were of high quality. Meeting halls were comfortable, and the audiovisual arrangements were impeccable. Complimentary refreshments between sessions combined with the opportunity for facile contact between the participants provided a congenial atmosphere for scientific and social exchange. The organizers extended the proverbial Chinese hospitality during the days of the Symposium. All participants enjoyed and appreciated the official reception, the entertaining performance at the Acrobatic Theatre, and the symposium banquet in the famed Summer Palace. An excursion to the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs outside Beijing provided another highlight of the meeting. There was an excellent social program for accompanying persons, and there were pre- and post-symposium tours in which many participated.

I felt privileged to represent IUPAC at the symposium, to convey the greetings of President Jortner to the assembled audience, and to participate actively in the proceedings by presenting some of our own work. It is a pleasure for me to place on record the appreciation of IUPAC to the Chinese Chemical Society and especially to the Chairman, Professor Xiaotian Liang, to Professor Xibai Qui, who served as Secretary and Contact Point, and to their many active colleagues, for the successful organization of ISCNP-21.

On a personal note, this was the first visit to China for my wife and me, and it was an immensely enjoyable experience. We saw and learned much during the short stay, and we made new friends. We hope to come again another time.

Ed. Note: Manuscripts from ISCNP-21 will be published in *Pure Appl. Chem.* 71(6), June (1999).

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President, IUPAC Organic Chemistry Division
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