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For more information, contact the AOAC International Meetings and Education Department, 481 North Frederick Avenue, Suite 500, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2417, USA; E-mail: meetings@aoac.org; Tel: +1-800-379-2622 from North America or +1 301 924 7077 worldwide; Fax: +1 301 924 7089; Web site: <http://www.aoac.org>. The web site will have regularly updated information about the meeting.

16th IMEKO World Congress, 25–28 September 2000, Vienna, Austria

This Congress of the International Measurement Confederation, IMEKO 2000, is being organized by the Austrian Society for Measurement and Automation (ÖGMA). The scope of this meeting is extremely broad, encompassing the following areas:

- education and training in measurement and instrumentation
- photonic measurements
- measurement of force, mass, and torque
- measurement of electrical quantities
- hardness measurement
- measurement science
- traceability in metrology
- flow measurement
- technical diagnostics
- metrological infrastructures
- thermal and temperature measurement
- measurements in biology and medicine
- measurement of geometrical quantities
- experimental mechanics
- pressure and vacuum measurement
- measurement in robotics
- measurement of human functions
- special topics for IMEKO-XVI in Vienna
- micro and nano technology
- estimation of uncertainty and errors in measurement
- interfaces of measurement and decision making
- expert systems in decision making
- statistical evaluation of measurement results
- quality management
- environmental management
- sustainable development and its indicators

For additional information, contact the Congress Secretariat, Abteilung Austauschbau und Messtechnik (AuM), Karlsplatz 13/3113, A-1040 Wien, Austria; E-mail: imeko@mail.ift.tuwien.ac.at or imeko2000@ove.e2i.at; Tel: +43 1 58801 31140 or +43 1 585 52 71; Fax: +43 1 58801 31196 or +43 1 585 85 91; Web site: <http://www.imeko2000.at>.

POLYCHAR-9 World Forum on Polymer Applications and Theory and Short Course on Polymer Characterization, 8–12 January 2001, Denton, Texas, USA



The POLYCHAR-9 Conference (9–12 January) focus is on characterization on one hand and synthesis, processing, manufacturing, and properties on the other, with emphasis on predictions of service performance. All polymer-based materials, including thermoplastics, thermosets, heterogeneous and molecular composites, blends, polymer melts, and solutions, are covered.

Research presentations will be in oral and poster formats in the following areas:

- predictive methods
- polymerization
- polymer liquid crystals
- mechanical properties and performance
- dielectric and electrical properties
- interfaces
- rheology
- solutions and processing
- recycling
- characterization
- structure–property relations

Prizes to young investigators and students will be awarded for a presentation in either format; the Paul J. Flory Prize for Polymer Research might also be awarded. There will be an equipment and book exhibition. Participants from 41 countries took part in POLYCHAR-8 in January 2000.

The Short Course (8 January) will include the following topics:

- computerized mechanical testing (tension, compression, bending, impact, stress relaxation, friction, and dynamic mechanical analysis)
- thermophysical characterization (differential scanning calorimetry, thermogravimetric analysis, thermal mechanical analysis, and PVT measurements for solids and melts)
- electrical properties (dielectric spectroscopy and thermally stimulated depolarization)
- microscopy
- interface investigation

These Conferences used to be called International Conferences on Polymer Characterization; the new name better reflects the wide profile and the fact that experimentalists, modeling and simulation people, and theorists jointly discuss their research and de-