

Functional and Biological Gels and Networks: Theory and Experiment

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edited by J. Stanford

Polymer Networks 2006, the 18th International Polymer Networks Group Meeting, was held in Sheffield, UK from 3–7 September 2006. The conference was organized by the Sheffield Polymer Centre at the University of Sheffield under the cochairmanship of John Stanford (University of Manchester), Tony Ryan (University of Sheffield), and Simon Ross-Murphy (Kings College, London). The conference was sponsored by IUPAC's Polymer Division.

At the conference, macromolecular and biological science experts from a variety of disciplines presented the latest research on functional and biological gels and networks, hitting topics that crossed the boundaries between synthetic, biological, and physical gels and networks. Topics included:

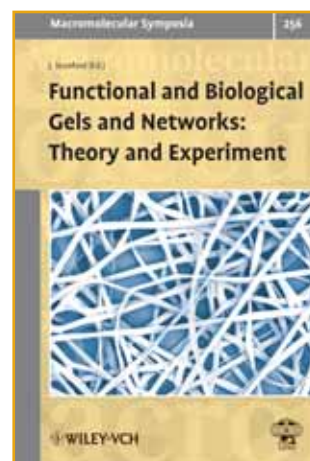
- the chemistry, processing, structure, and properties of synthetic elastomers
- the molecular and supramolecular characterization of gels and networks
- theory and modeling of gelation and network formation

- nanostructured gels and network nanocomposites as high-performance engineering materials
- biological and physical gels and networks with applications in the biomedical field, in drug releases, in cosmetics, and in the food industry

This special volume of *Macromolecular Symposia* contains selected papers from the conference and is divided into five parts that reflect the themes of the conference program:

- statistical studies on networks
- processing-structure-properties of networks
- scattering from gels and networks
- nanostructured gels and networks
- physical and biological gels

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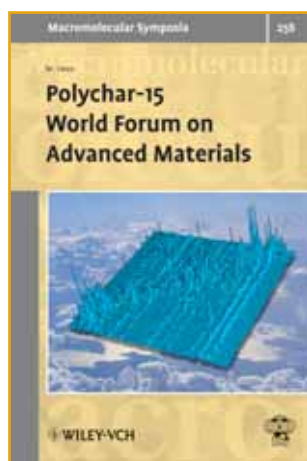
Polychar-15 World Forum on Advanced Materials

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edited by M. Hess

Polychar, the World Forum for Advanced Materials, was held in Buzios, Brazil, in 2007—and, naturally enough, focused on polymer science on the South American continent. Since 2004, Polychar has been held in different locations around the globe, helping to ensure that the widest variety of participants can attend and that important new research worldwide is presented.



A range of original research and reviews related to advanced materials were presented at the conference, and highlights are included in this volume. In addition, at the conference, the Paul J. Flory Research Award (ex aequo) was presented to Prof. Eloisa Mano, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Prof. Jean-Marc Saiter, Universite de Rouen, Rouen, France. In addition, the International Materials Research Award was presented to Prof. Dusan Berek, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia.

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