

Publisher's Note

Welcome to the January 2012 issue of *Reactive and Functional Polymers*!

The latest (2010) impact factor of the journal, as announced by Thomson Reuters in June 2011, is an impressive 2.546* (Fig. 1). This places *Reactive and Functional Polymers* among the highest quality specialised journals in polymer science, above many general polymer journals which cater to a wider audience. I take the opportunity to express our thanks to all our authors, referees, readers and last but not least, our journal editors – they are all jointly responsible for this success.

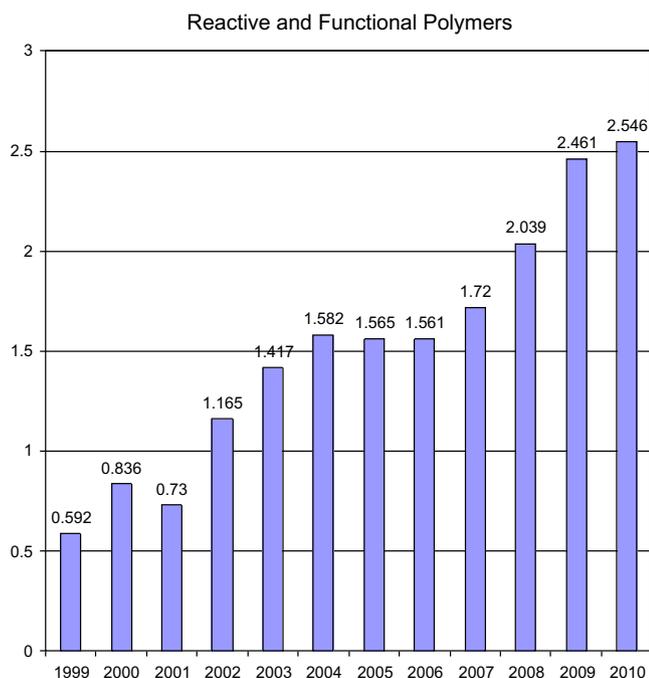


Fig. 1. The impact factor of *Reactive and Functional Polymers* during the period 1999–2010.

The rapidly growing impact factor in recent years resulted in steady increase in the number of submissions to the journal. This has created the need for an additional (fourth) editor.

I would like to announce here some changes to the composition and responsibilities of the group of editors of *Reactive and Functional Polymers*.

I am very pleased to introduce Professor Alexander Bismarck from Imperial College London, UK as a new editor joining the journal as of 1 January 2012.

Alexander Bismarck was born in 1971. He graduated in Chemistry from Technical University Berlin in 1995 and received

his PhD in Polymer Science from the Institute of Technical Chemistry, Technical University Berlin in 1999. From 1999 until 2001 he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Surfactant and Colloids Group at the University of Hull, UK working with Professor Bob Aveyard and Dr John Clint. During the period 2001–2002 he worked as R&D Engineer for Sulzer Innotec (later Sulzer Composites) in Switzerland. In 2002 he joined the Department of Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London as Lecturer in Chemical Engineering and was promoted to Reader in Advanced Materials (2006) and Professor of Advanced Materials (2009). At Imperial College, Professor Bismarck leads the Polymer and Composite Engineering (PaCE) Group, a multi-disciplinary team, with expertise in macroporous materials, membranes, filters, hydrogels, renewable polymer materials and nanoreinforcements, and the manufacture and analysis of novel fibre reinforced (nano)composites. He has co-authored 140 scientific papers, 16 book chapters and 8 patents. He is the winner of a number of awards: Bruce Hartmann Young Investigator Award (2004), Inaugural Imperial College London Rector's Award (2005), £1m EPSRC Challenging Engineering Award (2006), International Materials Science Prize (2009) by PolyCHAR Forum for work on nanocomposite polymer foams, Outstanding Young Scientists Award of the BioEnvironmental Polymer Society (2010). He is the Vice-President of the BioEnvironmental Polymer Society (BEPS) and will be its President from 1 January 2012. Between 2006 and 2011 he has been Editor of *Journal of Biobased Materials and Bioenergy*. His recent research interests include nanosized bacterial cellulose, novel macroporous polymers, emulsion templating, responsive polymers gels, water soluble polymers for turbulent drag reduction, (renewable) nano- and hierarchical composites, multifunctional composites for energy storage applications, thermoplastic composites and polymer surface modification.

I am also delighted to announce that Professor Yasuyuki Tezuka from Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan, who has strongly contributed to the journal as its Asian Editor since 2006, becomes Editor-in-Chief as of 1 January 2012.

During 2012 *Reactive and Functional Polymers* will have both Nicola Tirelli and Yasuyuki Tezuka as Editors-in-Chief. From the beginning of 2013, following Nicola Tirelli's intended retirement from the journal, Yasuyuki Tezuka will remain the sole Editor-in-Chief.

Until now, the journal editors were responsible for handling all papers submitted from a particular geographical area. From the beginning of 2012, authors will be asked to select a subject area which best matches the content of their paper and the paper will then be handled by the most appropriate journal editor.

I wish success to Alexander Bismarck and the rest of the editors in their new responsibilities with the journal.

Rumen Duhlev
 Publisher

Elsevier, Oxford, UK

E-mail address: r.duhlev@elsevier.com

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