Preface – Manuscript cemeteries

*T. Czigány**

Department of Polymer Engineering, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Műegyetem rkp. 3., H-1111, Budapest, Hungary

Dear Reader,

You are reading the first issue of the 12th volume of **eXPRESS Polymer Letters**. Last year the journal reached its highest impact factor (2.983), thanks to our excellent authors, strict reviewers and the researchers citing our articles. The WoS category of the journal continues to be the highest, Q1. It has 12 issues a year with 7 scientific articles per issue and a short editorial.

The area of the journal is polymer and composite science. This area continuously develops and expands from raw material manufacturing, through materials development and manufacturing technologies to application. Researchers and developers who publish their results in **eXPRESS Polymer Letters** and in other journals have a key role in this. They contribute to sustainable development and the fast publication of results on a public forum. **eXPRESS Polymer Letters** continues to be open access; neither the publication of the articles, nor their reading or downloading costs money. A serious problem, however, is that journals are sprouting uncontrollably, one can receive 5–10 emails a day from them, in which they ask the researcher to publish in them, and the article can get published in as short a time as 5 days. Great care needs to be taken because these offers entail high fees for publishing and they do not have any quality assurance, professional review. Another problem is that nobody reads them because the scientific community does not know these journals and websites, therefore the articles will not be cited, and so they land in a ‘manuscript cemetery’. Often these journals are misleading because their name and website are very similar to those of quality journals. Then how can one

make sure that a journal is a quality journal? The simplest method is looking it up in the Web of Science database. If it is not included in the database, one must be cautious and check the journal very carefully, even if they write that they are an impact factor journal because it is not true, at least according to WoS they are not. The indicated impact factor usually based on their own unchecked calculations. Therefore one must be careful, even if there is an urgent need for publication. Do not succumb to these journals and do not pollute the environment: ‘Publication pollution’ (<https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2012.1>).

eXPRESS Polymer Letters continues to provide completely free publication for every author, a fast peer review process by 3–5 reviewers (about 1 month), then fast proof preparation and publication after authors’ correction. The whole process from the submission of the article to its publication lasts 3–4 months. At the same time, we provide a way to publish hot topics faster, see: ‘Wanted: Revolutionary concepts with feasibility check’ (<https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2017.49>).

I wish all the authors, readers and reviewers of **eXPRESS Polymer Letters** a successful and happy new year, many new scientific achievements, good health and quality publications.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. Tibor Czigány
editor

*Corresponding author, e-mail: czigany@eik.bme.hu
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