Editorial corner

The Polypropylene Pope would be 70

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It is the second issue dedicated to the 70th birthday of the first editor-in-chief of Express Polymer Letters, Professor József Karger-Kocsis, who passed away in December 2018.

His diverse scientific research covered thermoplastics, thermosets, and rubbers, but polypropylene (PP) was present in entire his professional career. He published the first PP-related papers in the 1970s, and throughout his life, he wrote more than a hundred papers. In 1995, he edited a book series of three volumes: ‘Polypropylene: Structure, Blends and Composites’, in which the academic knowledge of this field was collected. After the success of this series, he edited a cyclopedia about PP:

‘Polypropylene: An A–Z Reference’ (1999). Almost 20 years later, he decided to edit a new handbook on PP. It was a great honor for me to take part in this work. It took a year, and we made the finishing touches at his deathbed, but unfortunately, he did not live to see the publication of the

‘Polypropylene Handbook: Morphology, Blends and Composites’ (Springer Nature, Cham, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-12903-3>). All the chapters were prepared by well-known experts, and they summarize existing and established knowledge and rules, as well as the latest research results. The book focuses on processing–structure–property relationships: how to influence them, what can be achieved, and what are

the benefits of these modifications? – these aspects were characteristic of his scientific thinking...

In this second issue, with seven articles, in which his students and ex-colleagues present their newest research results, which were also inspired and helped by professor Karger-Kocsis: the first paper is prepared by his Greek PhD student (Dr. N. M. Barkoula *et al.*) about the degradation of different resins, the next paper is a review on smart polymer nanocomposites by his Malaysian friends (Prof. Z. A. M. Ishak and Prof. W. S. Chow). The next article, prepared by his friend from New-Zealand (Prof. S. Fakirov), deals with the evergreen question of polymer nanocompos-

ites; and there is a comparative study by his Greek friend (Prof. G. C. Psarras *et al.*) on the electrical properties of different forms of carbon allotropes – epoxy nanocomposites. The next paper is prepared by his first PhD student (Prof. C-M. Wu *et al.* from Tai-

Handbooks on polypropylene edited by Prof. Karger-Kocsis

wan) about cellulose nanocomposites. There is an article by his Austrian friend (Dr. M. Gahleitner *et al.*) on the β -nucleation of isotactic polypropylene. Finally, there is a paper on the impact characterization of polymer foams prepared by four generations of his close Hungarian colleagues: Prof. T. Czigány was his PhD student, Dr. T. Bárány was supervised by Prof. Czigány, Dr. Bárány supervised Dr. Á. Kmetty and M. Tomin is a PhD student of Dr. Kmetty.

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