Preface - plus-minus ten years

Czigány T.

Accepted for publication in Express Polymer Letters
Published in 2017
DOI: 10.3144/expresspolymlett.2017.1

eXPRESS Polymer Letters Vol.11, No.1 (2017) 1
Available online at www.expresspolymlett.com
https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2017.1

Preface – Plus-minus ten years

*T. Czigány**

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

Dear Readers,

We launched ***eXPRESS* Polymer Letters** 120 months ago, in January 2007. Our aim was to provide a fast and high quality publication possibility to researchers active in the field of polymers and their composites, with special emphasis on the aspects of materials science. It is interesting to think of these ten years retrospectively. New words, expressions and of course products and technologies came up in our everyday life, became commodities and have been changing our lives. Some examples are smartphones, drones, Iindustry 4.0, self-driving cars and the like. Sure, they changed our habits, our daily routine. Life in the world accelerated extremely, there are huge changes. Nowadays it is not enough to produce materials with good mechanical, physical and chemical properties. Industry expects more: functional materials which are smart and adapted to human needs. From this viewpoint polymers are excellent, as we, human beings can be conceived of as polymers, polymeric composites. The human body senses, responds, communicates. Research and development of materials science and technology play an important role in the evolution of the industry ('Industry 4.0'). Advanced manufacturing technologies (e.g. additive manufacturing) and automatization can respond to these demands and help to be adapted to them. A product made from these materials should sense, react and communicate. All this by itself, without human intervention. It means that one should equip materials with sensors which can perceive and transmit data, according to the requirements of the industry. This does not necessarily mean that materials engineers have to invent something brand new, but the existing materials have to be provided with new functions. E.g. in a glass fiber reinforced composite glass fibers can be used not only as reinforcing elements, but also for light and optical data transmission. Or in carbon fiber reinforced composites one can utilize the thermal and electrical conductivity of carbon fibers etc. This requires, of course, a new mentality and readiness for experimentation and the realization of the new task: development of 'bio-inspired' systems almost as perfect as living organisms.

After ten years let me share some statistics related to the results of the journal. In these ten years 1027 articles were published, which is 15% of the submitted manuscripts. The impact factor of the journal is presently 2.965 and it has Q1 qualification both in the Web of Science-ban (WoS) and in Scopus. The articles published in the journal got almost 11 000 WoS citations during this period, our h-index is 41. The website of the journal is visited several thousands of times monthly and our most popular article (Starch-based completely biodegradable polymer materials) has been downloaded more than 11 000 times (https://doi.org/10.3144/expresspolymlett.2009.46).

I wish all authors, readers and referees of ***eXPRESS* Polymer Letters** a Happy New Year, good results and health for the next 10 years. Who knows what kind of novelties will be reported then, whether we will still have drones and smartphones, and what will be the current position of industrial development. Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. Tibor Czigány
editor

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