

## Editor-in-Chief's Notes



Since November 2012, when Polyolefins Journal (POJ) first accepted submissions, and subsequently on January 2013, when it published its first issue, the Journal has grown and the number of submitted articles has increased steadily during the two years period from 2013-2015. The positive response to the Journal's launch, and relative increase in issue - by - issue submission/publication, speak for the cautious acceptance of the Journal in the established field of polyolefins. Nonetheless, we are still quite a distance away from the ideal situation where, the number of acceptable submissions would secure, after the stringent peer-reviewing selection process, a sufficient number of accepted research and review articles needed for each issue's publication.

To review and discuss all topics related to current and foreseeable shortcomings of the Polyolefins Journal, during a two- hour meeting, a restricted editorial board was held on Sunday 22/04/2015 at the IPPI site in Tehran. It was elaborated that to remedy the potential chronic and acute problems related to low number of quality articles submissions to the journal, particularly for those articles expected from WE and NA, certain urgent measures needed to be taken. It was acknowledged that as a prerequisite to accomplish this goal, POJ, like all and any other journal, as the time passes, needs to undergo certain transformations to adopt to the new realities on the ground. This should be part of a steady, sometimes radical, sometimes incremental process, of its continuous development.

First and foremost, the changes, at this particular phase, should involve the re-configuration of the editorial board to enable the formation of a refreshed, rejuvenated and more proactive editorial board including young scientists from all sections of polyolefin research. Consequently, several new board member candidates have been nominated and a few current members will retire from editorial board. These changes will be announced gradually in the coming issues of POJ.

The second important change concerns the enlargement of topics permitted by current Journal's publication policy with the aim of improving the number of submissions via broadening the overall interests for the Journal's potential authors/readers for publication in POJ. Therefore, it was proposed and unanimously accepted, to add a new topic: "Different Aspects of alpha-Olefins Research including their Catalytic Synthesis, Characterization, etc." to the initially announced list of article types publishable by POJ. Thus from the next issue on, we expect to receive submission and publication of olefin/a-olefin research related articles.

Last but not least, to entice the increased submissions to Polyolefins Journal, it has been decided to establish an annual prize award for the best two original research articles or review papers published in Polyolefins Journal in order to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of their authors in the area of polyolefins. The prize will be awarded to the articles submitted from 1 May 2015 to 30 September 2016 that will be published in the next issues. Through this prize, we wish to encourage and reward the publication endeavors of scholars. Applications are welcomed from senior and junior scholars from all countries. The winners will be awarded either a prize money worth of \$1,500. Or, alternatively, POJ would sponsor the participation of the winners to a polyolefin related conference of their choice, with an amount not exceeding \$1,500.

The Best Article will be chosen by the POJ editorial board after receiving nominations from the Editorial Review Board. The final selections will take place in December, 2016.

Moreover, to make the journal more attractive to a wider audience, it has been reiterated on the fact that each future issue of Polyolefins Journal will have to include at least one industry related article/review article that describes/

analysis, in details, various aspects of olefin/polyolefin production processes including economics and investment/ financial implications of one of the major world scale petrochemical companies.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that despite the fact that journal's publication is considered as biannual, the accepted articles are published online instantaneously and the authors/readers are not obliged to wait six months in order to see their articles or have access to the published results.

I believe strongly that under these conditions, and once these far-reaching and comprehensive changes are implemented, the proper scene for the steady and continuous development essential for the promotion and survival of the Journal is set.

**Editor-in-Chief**

**Prof. Dr. Abbas Razavi**