

Editor-in-Chief's Notes



With the current issue of the Polyolefins Journal in your hands the journal is entering to the third year of its biannual publication. There were many who doubted and also some who were optimistic at the time about the future of POJ in an environment where many, well established and outstanding journals in this field have existed and have been published for a very long time. However, our intention from the beginning was not to compete with other similar-minded publications but to attempt, by defining for POJ a different and particular mission, to make the journal attractive to a special group of scientific population. From the beginning, we were particularly keen to encourage the reception of submissions from early career researchers, Ph.D. students, and post-Docs, etc., but of course without forgetting to welcome the publication endeavors of senior and junior scholars from all countries of the world.

Another factor that we believe has also contributed extensively to the journal's survival and success so far could be attributed to our approach in being receptive and open to critical views and ideas expressed by our readers, editors, and reviewers with respect to the form and content of the articles submitted to the journal and implementation of those views and ideas. Therefore, during its relative short life span, POJ has been undergoing steady changes that have led both to its qualitative and quantitative improvements.

To emphasize on the first target, as reported in the previous issue, journal's editorial management had decided to establish an annual prize, to be awarded to the best two original research articles or review papers submitted to, and published in the Polyolefins Journal. The main purpose of the prize is to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of their mostly, but not exclusively, young authors in the area of polyolefins. The first prize will be awarded to two articles selected from those articles that have been submitted from 01 May 2015 to 30 September 2016.

We have likewise welcomed the implementation of an idea expressed by many colleagues concerning the broadening of accepted topics for the publication in POJ, to include a broader range of articles from wider areas of polyolefins research. Manuscripts including topics spanning as broad as aspects of alpha-olefins research, their catalytic synthesis, characterization, etc. up to varieties of polyolefins homo- and copolymers, their synthesis, processing and applications are now accepted by the journal and could be published as an article by POJ if they pass our usual severe reviewing procedure. The aim was, in this way, to increase the number of submissions by increasing the overall interests of the journal's potential authors/readers for publication in POJ. We hoped that these particular changes would make the Polyolefins Journal more attractive for submissions in this field and allow determination and distribution of knowledge across a wider audience worldwide.

The introduced changes have already started bearing their fruits; the number of submissions has increased in a respective manner and in the current issue you will find articles introducing the newly admitted subjects. The submission and publication of the two articles: "Expected nucleation effects of carboxylic acid salts on poly(1-butene)" authored by Tao Zheng et al. and "Biodegradation of PP films modified with organic pro-degradant: natural ageing and biodegradation in soil in respirometric test" authored by Larissa Montagna et al. are the immediate consequences of this policy change. In the first article, a new nucleating agent based on 9,10-dihydro-9,10-ethano-anthracene-11,12-dicarboxylic acid disodium salt (DHEAS) was synthesized and used in the poly(1-butene) isothermal crystallization process. In the second article, biodegradation of organic pro-degradant modified PP films was studied in simulated soil in the respirometric test during 100 days.

In this issue, we have started with the publication of articles that we had promised the reader's from the beginning of the journal's life, namely, to publish in each issue of the journal a review article about industrial extent and activities of one of the major polyolefin producers in the world. We have started these series of reviews with an article submitted by Dr. N. Bahri, from IPPI on Iran's polyolefin's industry titled: "Polyolefin and olefin production in Iran; current and future capacities". I highly recommend the critical reading of this very informative review article that takes the

reader on a historical and geographic tour. It describes, with some background on the status of current Iranian polyolefin manufacturing industry and the future planning for its extension and capacity additions. It provides a clear and comprehensive overview on olefins and polyolefins production sites/capacities and their distributions over different especial petrochemical economic zones, concentrated in and around three major centres. The reactors' feed is provided by the longest ethylene gas pipeline in the world, in the western part of the country, called the western ethylene pipeline with an approximate length of 2600 km, starting from Assaluyeh, deep in the south, and reaching now, while I am writing these lines the furthest north-western city of Iran, Mahabad and its petrochemical site.

We expect and would welcome other similar review articles and would encourage researchers from other polymer research institutions, Iranian or foreigners alike, to continue this tradition and submit similar review articles on other major polyolefin companies. We will be also pleased to receive submissions from industrial researchers that have made step change improvement /discoveries in their field leading to vast improvements in their respective processes, productions, and products.

To cope with the increased number of manuscript submissions, and the broader range of topics covered in the newly submitted manuscripts, it was required to implement certain re-configurations in the structure of editorial board and create a new position as Co-Editor-in-Chief. The nomination and election of Prof. G.H. Zohuri, already active as an editorial board member, by internal editorial board members and the editor in charge successfully resolved this issue. His intervention in this function shall partially relief me from reviewing and decision making process on a growing number of manuscripts and will help these processes to be handled in a speedier and more expeditious manner.

Prof. Gholam Hossein Zohuri was born in 1959 in Birjand, Iran. After receiving his PhD in polymer chemistry, Ziegler Natta polymerization in 1993 he has been faculty member of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad and since 1994, he has been also a research member of Iran Polymer and Petrochemical Institute. He has worked with Prof. Tait (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, UMIST, UK) 2004-2005, Prof. Terano (Japan Advance Institute of Science and Technology, JAIST, JP) 2010 and Prof. Miller (University of Florida, UF, U.S.A) 2010.

His research has been concerned with the general area of polymerization and polymer behavior. He has published 4 books and book chapters and over 60 peer reviewed papers. Since 2011, he has been a member of the editorial board of Iranian Polymer Journal.

We believe that this, now almost three years old venture of open access publishing of Polyolefins Journal was timely and appropriate and is becoming very exciting. We hope you will consider sending your work to us and we are looking forward to receiving.

Even though a sad news, it would not be just to finish these editorial notes without mentioning the passing of Prof. Ali Akbar Entezami one of our senior editorial board members. Prof. Ali Akbar Entezami was born in 1943 in Tabriz. He received his PhD from Louis Pasteur University in 1971. He was Professor Emeritus at University of Tabriz. His wide range research activities included, inter alia, chemical and electrochemical synthesis and characterization of conducting polymers, living free radical polymerization, liquid crystal polymers synthesis and characterization, polymeric drug delivery system and metallocene catalyst for olefin polymerization. He has been a member of "Groupe Polymere de France" from 1971 to 1990. He was also a member of Editorial Board of Iranian Polymer Journal and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Journal of Faculty of Pharmacy). He published more than 140 articles and authored 4 books. He was the winner of several awards from Ministry of Science and superior education for his research activities. We honor and remember him and his considerable and valuable contributions to Iranian polymer science in particular and polymer science as a whole. His unexpected departure has been felt as a great loss to the journal and colleagues in the editorial board.

Editor-in-Chief
Prof. Dr. Abbas Razavi