Editor-in-Chief's Notes

Time flies, and the year 2016 is almost half way through and it is with great pleasure that we are presenting to you the second issue of the 3rd volume of Polyolefins Journal. The new issue is successfully prepared and contains several interesting scientific, scholarly reviewed articles with a wide range of topics concerning polyolefin field. The first paper is authored by Fatemeh Khadem Molavi et al. entitled "Effect of multi-walled carbon nanotube on mechanical and rheological properties of silane modified EPDM rubber". This manuscript investigated the dispersion state and characteristics of nanocomposites based on MWCNT and functionalized EPDM. The results are very interesting and well discussed. The second paper is written by Takao Tayano et al. entitled "Morphology control of clay-mineral particles as supports for metallocene catalysts in propylene polymerization ". This paper describes the application of clay as a support for metallocene catalysts used in propylene polymerization. The preparation conditions of clay particles were investigated in detail and the control of the size and shape of the clay support were achieved. The prepared supports were applied to propylene polymerization combined with a metallocene catalyst. The third paper is written by Larissa S. Montagna et al. entitled "Comparative study of degradation of PP modified with an organic pro-degradant subjected to natural and artificial ageing". The paper deals with the degradation behavior of the samples exposed to the ageing processes which was evaluated through changes in the degree of crystallinity (X_c), surface morphology and molecular weight. The forth paper is written by Ting Fu et al. entitled "Imido-modified SiO_2-supported Ti/Mg Ziegler-Natta catalysts for ethylene polymerization and ethylene/1-hexene copolymerization". In this paper, the authors investigated modifying of a SiO_2 supported ZN catalyst and tried to optimize catalyst composition and its performance. The next paper is written by Sampat S. Bhati et al. entitled "Quantification of identical and unique segments in ethylene-propylene copolymers using two dimensional liquid chromatography, with infrared detection". In this manuscript, the high temperature two dimensional liquid chromatography is excellently described on two ethylene-propylene copolymer samples. The authors illustrated how more information on the molecular structure could be extracted (addressing the current industrial challenge) from 2D-LC data just by some mathematical treatment. The last paper is authored by Mostafa Ahmadi et al. entitled "Evaluation of continuous and discrete melting endotherms for determination of structural heterogeneities in Ziegler-Natta catalyzed linear low density polyethylene ". In this paper, an attempt is done to find a simple correlation between melting endotherms (DSC) or fractionated endotherms by SSA and chemical composition distribution (CCD).

But let's not get ahead of ourselves and as it has been customary in this editorial to start with reporting the events that have happened in the past six months and are of importance for the continuation and steady improvements prerequisite for the long-term survival of the Journal.

The first, and without any doubt the most important News concerns the official attribution of the « Scientific-Research» credit to the Polyolefins Journal. The classification of the journal in this category of scientific publications is of great value primarily for our internal authors and mainly young researchers.

The Scientific-Research ranking/classification is normally granted to a Journal after a long, and tedious evaluation process by a prestigious selection committee, composed of scientists from Iran, put in place on occasion, by the officials of the Ministry of Science & Education. The main task of this uniquely composed committee is to evaluate the scientific qualification of publications.

The Scientific-Research credit attributed to the Journal, has been awarded, after scrutinizing all aspects of publication

activities of Polyolefins Journal during the past three years. Undoubtedly, it has been granted, thanks to its regular bi-annual publications, the high quality of the published articles, the scientific reputation of the authors and professional/ impartial handling of peer reviewing process by our reviewers. The journal gratefully acknowledges the tireless efforts and their share in contributing to such a resounding success.

Additionally, we owe this achievement to the reputation and contribution of our nationally and internationally, re-nowned editorial board members, most of whom are well known worldwide and expert in different areas of polyolefin developments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all editorial board members for their ongoing com-mitments to the standards to which the journal aspires. We thank all of them for their valuable time, dedication, and fidelity to the POJ.

Second event/news, less eminent but not negligible in its effect, was the semi-official decision on further expanding the breadth of topics of published articles in the Polyolefins Journal, to include extended polyolefin polymers, their preparation, characterization, and application. After publishing several issues, the editors has reached the conclusion that by accepting submissions that focus only on the initially defined polyolefin related topics, not only POJ deprives itself from publications of new topics, gaining academically and industrially ever more importance, but also will be encountering an acute shortage of article submissions meeting journals standards. New topic includes Vinyl polymers: synthesis, characterization, processing and applications.

Before closing these notes I wish also, as always, to express my gratitude to the managing editorial team by acknowl-edging their share in obtaining the Scientific-Reseach ranking for their excellence in handling their responsibilities. During the last three years the journal's managerial team for the way they:

- have handled the large majority of first-round submissions.
- have significantly expanded our pool of excellent reviewers.
- have decreased the average turnaround times; most papers now have at least two, but in general three reviewers and so on ….

and more on the fact that the quality of technical part of their work has been steadily improving.

Editor-in-Chief
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