EDITORIAL

Dramatic changes are taking place in the use of new materials for various end-use applications. We know that polymers are often the materials of choice towards the development of new products. The new multi-disciplinary polymer oriented materials science field is of the highest scientific standards. The International conference on Advanced Polymeric Materials 2013 (ICAPM 2013) took place in Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, India, on 11-13 October, 2013. It was jointly organized by Wroclaw University of Technology, Wroclaw, Poland and Beijing University of Chemical Technology (BUCT), Beijing, China. The aim of the conference was to bring together a panel of highly-accomplished experts and scientists in the field of Polymeric Materials. The goal of the conference was to emphasize the interdisciplinary research in processing, morphology, structure and properties of different polymeric materials, their blends and composites. The conference encompassed basic studies, applications and introduced topics of novel issues. During the three-day conference, everyone participated in lectures given by eminent authorities in the field as they discussed recent advances, difficulties, and breakthroughs in the field of Advanced Polymeric Materials. The conference featured keynote addresses, a number of plenary sessions, invited talks and contributed lectures focused on specific tenets of polymeric materials. Synthesis and characterization of advanced polymers of controlled architecture, supramolecular polymer systems, self assembly in polymer systems, co-polymers, dendrimers, polymer brushes, block copolymers, star polymers, switchable polymers, IPNs, polymer blends, polymer gels, nanostructured polymers, polymer nanocomposites, organic-inorganic hybrid materials, bio-inspired synthetic polymer materials, bio-materials, green composites, polymers for energy storage, polymers for energy conversion, polymers for biomedical applications, polymers for transportation, polymers for electronics etc. were a few of the wide areas of topics covered in the conference. Additionally, there was a poster session with more than 50 posters to encourage the growing scientists and researchers in this field.

This special issue of *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology* collects selected papers presented during the conference. The papers cover topics in natural polymers, biomaterials and their composites. We appreciate the efforts and enthusiasm of the contributing authors, and acknowledge those who wereready to contribute. We are sure that this special issue will stimulate new ideas, methods and applications in ongoing advances in this growing area of strong international interest. The guest editors of this special issue are Prof. Dr Sabu Thomas, International and Interuniversity Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India, Dr.Maciej JaroszewskiWroclaw, University of Technology, Wroclaw, Poland, Prof. Dr. Yang Weimin, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, China, Dr. Nandakumar Kalarikkal, International and Interuniversity Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India andA. R.Ajitha, International and Interuniversity Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India. We would like to thank all those who kindly contributed with their papers to this issue and the editors of *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology* for their kind help and co-operation. We are also indebted to the *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology* editorial office and the publishing and production teams for their assistance in preparation and publication of this issue.

Guest Editors

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