

Annual Report Polymer and Colloids Division

(from Dr. Bettina Steinmann, President, www.polycoll.ch)

The new division Polymers and Colloids is the result of the merger of the Polymer Group Switzerland (PGS) with the Swiss Chemical Society. The merger was completed on June 8, 2007, when the final general assembly of the PGS decided the dissolution of the group and the transfer of the PGS fortune to the newly formed Polymers and Colloids Division of the Swiss Chemical Society. During the subsequent first general assembly of the new division a new board was elected and a first budget established. The board consists of Prof. Michal Borkovec, Prof. Martina Hirayama, Prof. Harm-Anton Klok, Prof. Wolfgang Meier, Prof. Raffaele Mezzenga, Dr. Andreas Mühlebach (quaestor), Prof. Dieter Schlüter, Dr. Bettina Steinmann (president) and Dr. Jürgen Vogt.

The Division builds on synergies between Chemistry and Material Sciences, providing a network between scientists and technologists in all areas where polymers and colloids are synthesized, manufactured, investigated, transformed or applied:

- Polymer chemistry & physics
- Colloids and soft condensed matter
- Polymers in life science
- Functional polymers
- Formulation and product design
- Construction polymers, adhesives and coatings

The activities of the division include the organization of an annual Spring Meeting about Polymer and Colloid Science, the organization of meetings and workshops about areas of current interest and the contribution to the yearly Fall Meeting of the SCS.

The spring meeting 2007 took place at Ciba SC in Basel and was dedicated to "High Performance Polymers". It was attended by more than 70 participants. Eight interesting contributions gave an overview about recent progress in industrial polymer research and development.

On September 12, the division organized its first polymer science session within the Fall Meeting of the SCS. It included 13 contributions from Swiss and international speakers and 25 posters. The laureates of the best oral and poster presentations in this session were Mr Yun Suk Jo (EPFL) and Dr. Ruppert Konradi (ETHZ), respectively.

In 2008, the following activities are planned: the spring meeting in Fribourg on June 13, a new PILS meeting (Polymers in Life Science) in Basel in September and the polymer science session during the Fall Meeting. High priority has the installation of our new homepage polycoll.ch. A special issue of Chimia about the Polymers and Colloids Division is planned for fall 2008, and a column "Highlight in Polymers and Colloids" will appear every two months following the special issue.