

Editorial corner

The editor-in-chief, the Gatekeeper, would be 70

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The first editor-in-chief, the Gatekeeper of Express Polymer Letters Professor József Karger-Kocsis, would have been 70 in March 2020. Unfortunately, in December 2018 he passed away after a short, but serious illness, which he endured with patience and hope. His death is an enormous loss for the whole international polymer community, as he was one of the best known and most cited researchers, the author of numerous articles, book chapters and books, and the keynote speaker of many conferences. He did outstanding work in basic and applied research and innovation, and also united these areas; his 35 patents are an excellent indication of this. You can find his career in detail [here](#). Only in the little more than one year since his death, his publications had nearly 1500 independent citations; his h-index is 75 now. This shows what a deep, indelible mark he has left on the scientific community. His students and colleagues came to his funeral

from all over the world, or sent a letter of condolence with a photo or a quotation from him. After the funeral, Professor Klaus Friedrich, with whom he worked for the longest time, gave this summary: ‘A brilliant scientist, an excellent researcher, an amazing professor, and above all, a great human being’. Professor Karger was a real cosmopolitan, his immense knowledge spanned not only polymer technology

and materials science but also history, literature, geography, arts and sports. He held lectures in seven languages!

His immediate colleagues and the editorial staff of Express Polymer Letters decided to devote the 2020 April and May issues to his work, thus remembering the outstanding scientist, and the fantastic job he did for the journal. In each issue, in 7 articles, his students and ex-colleagues present their newest research results, which were also inspired and helped by professor Karger. In the present issue, there are

two articles from his best Chinese friends and colleagues (Prof. Ming-Qiu Zhang *et al.*, and Prof. Zhong Zhang *et al.*) on shape memory polymers, and a current review from his Thai doctoral student (Prof. Suchart Siengchin *et al.*) on natural fiber-reinforced polymer composites. There is also an article by one of his Hungarian colleagues (Prof. Sándor Kéki *et al.*) on the reaction



Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. József Karger-Kocsis
1950–2018

kinetics of poly(urethane) chemistry, an article on biodegradable polymers by his Finnish friend (Prof. Jukka Veli Seppälä *et al.*), and a paper on self-healing by his Italian friend (Prof. Alessandro Pegoretti *et al.*). This issue closes with an article from his long-time colleague (Prof. Klaus Friedrich *et al.*) on the toughening of epoxy resins, one of professor Karger’s most intensively researched areas.

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