Nature Publishing Group to co-publish Polymer Journal with the Society of Polymer Science, Japan

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) and the Society of Polymer Science, Japan (SPSJ) today announce a publishing partnership for Polymer Journal. NPG will co-publish Polymer Journal with SPSJ from January 2010. As part of this agreement the journal will undergo development during 2009 including a redesign to create a new-look cover, new website and new article types for the re-launch in 2010.

Tokyo-based NPG Publishing Director David Swinbanks said, "We are delighted to be taking this journal forward with the Society of Polymer Science, Japan. This is another exciting addition to the program of partnerships between NPG Nature Asia-Pacific and key scientific and clinical organizations across the Asia-Pacific region. We welcome Polymer Journal as the first physical sciences title to join NPG's academic and society journal program."

"This new partnership with Nature Publishing Group, one of the world’s premier scientific publishers, represents a new era for Polymer Journal," the President of the SPSJ, Professor Mitsuo Sawamoto of Kyoto University, said in Katsura, Kyoto. "We believe that the new development of Polymer Journal will increase its international visibility and result in it being a vital resource for scientists and a leading forum for discourse in the world polymer community. In turn, the Journal’s evolution into an integrated platform of scientific communication will assist the advancement of polymer science and related fields. We sincerely welcome your submissions and support. The Society and the Editorial Board are committed to make every effort to help Polymer Journal be at the forefront of the exciting worlds of polymer science and scientific publishing."

Since the SPSJ was founded in 1951 it has contributed to the development of polymer science and technology in Japan and around the world, and with 12,000 members is the world's largest polymer science society. SPSJ have published Polymer Journal monthly in English since 1970. The journal covers the whole range of polymer science: polymer syntheses and reactions, polymer structures, physical properties of polymers, functional polymers, biopolymers, and polymer engineering.

Polymer Journal fits well with NPG’s physical sciences portfolio. Important papers related to polymer science are regularly published in NPG’s flagship journal Nature, as well as in a number of other Nature-branded journals including Nature Materials, Nature Physics and Nature Nanotechnology. The partnership will also fit well with the forthcoming Nature Chemistry, due to launch in April 2009.

SPSJ will be able to take advantage of NPG’s strengths to benefit Polymer Journal: editorial expertise, pioneering technologies, innovative formats and world-class production to provide premium information for scientific researchers in the public and private sectors, government agencies and educators. SPSJ retains its original editorial rights including copyright and editorial board appointment.
“I welcome the new partnership with Nature Publishing Group,” says Dr. Toshikazu Takata, Editor-in-Chief of Polymer Journal in Ooyakayama, Tokyo. “It is a great step for the Society of Polymer Science, Japan, to start a collaboration with NPG to publish our journal from 2010, the 40th anniversary of the society. Since its launch in 1970, Polymer Journal has played an important role in the polymer science research community. I am sure that this new partnership will further enhance the journal’s role and visibility, as well as that of the society itself, enabling us to make a better contribution to the development of polymer research. I look forward to seeing many high quality contributions to Polymer Journal.”

Articles from Polymer Journal will be free on nature.com during the second half of 2009 to introduce the polymer community worldwide to the journal, before moving to a full site license and subscription publishing model from January 2010.

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About SPSJ
The Society of Polymer Science, Japan (SPSJ), a non-profit organization authorized by the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, is mainly composed of polymer scientists, engineers and managers in academia, industries and government institutions. Its primary role is to contribute to the development of polymer science and technology in Japan and worldwide.

Established in 1951 with around 12,000 members from Japan and around the world, SPSJ is one of the oldest and largest organizations dedicated to polymer (macromolecule) research and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2001. SPSJ consists of 8 regional chapters from Hokkaido to Kyushu and a special chapter for management professionals in polymer industries in Japan (Kobunshi Doyukai: The Federation of Technological Management in Polymer Industries, Japan).

Internationally, SPSJ is a founding member of the Pacific Polymer Federation (PPF) together with the American Chemical Society (ACS) and Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI). The membership of PPF is made up of polymer societies or organizations on the Pacific Rim. PPF holds the Pacific Polymer Conference every two years, in odd years. SPSJ also sends representatives to the IUPAC, Macromolecular Division as titular or associate members.

SPSJ itself has organized the International Polymer Conference (IPC) every two or three years since 1984 with the aim of contributing to international scientific exchange among countries worldwide. Further information is available at http://www.spsj.or.jp/english/whatspsj/spsj.htm

About NPG and NPG Nature Asia-Pacific
Nature Publishing Group (NPG) is a division of Macmillan Publishers Ltd, dedicated to serving the academic, professional scientific and medical communities. NPG's flagship title, Nature, was first published in 1869. Other publications include Nature research journals, Nature Reviews, Nature Clinical Practice and a range of prestigious academic journals including society-owned publications. NPG also provides news content through Nature News. Scientific career information and free job postings are offered on Naturejobs.
NPG Nature Asia-Pacific is the Asia-Pacific wing of NPG; set up to serve the growing needs of the scientific and medical communities in the region, and has offices in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Seoul, Delhi and Melbourne. For more information, please visit www.natureasia.com.

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Links:
The Society of Polymer Science, Japan: http://www.spsj.or.jp/english-index.htm
Polymer Journal: http://www.spsj.or.jp/c5/pj/pj.htm
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