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Because People Matter

In 2017, the Polymer Division turns 50 and with this issue of *Chemistry International*, we want to celebrate the occasion with a short review of who we are, what we do, how we do it, and what the future might hold. Within these few pages you will read of the Division's origins, the people who set it up and shaped its modern purpose, its relevance within modern polymer chemistry, its present day structure and the people who currently keep the show on the road, the recent histories and *modus operandi* of three of the divisional subcommittees, its conference activities and, in a thought-provoking end note, our president's reflections on our continuity of purpose within an unpredictable and ever-changing world: an essay with a very human touch, about our people and their inner resources when fears run high.

Scientific conferences bring researchers together for intense exchanges over short periods of time, so when I joined the Polymer Division, then still the Macromolecular Division, in 1997 at the Geneva General Assembly, I never thought for a moment that a whole new world of friendship was about to open up for me. But IUPAC meetings are unique. There is something special in people from all corners of the earth giving freely of their time, resources and energy to come together year on year to improve communication in the many fields of a subject they love; it delivers a bonding experience par excellence. The *lingua franca* of polymer chemistry may be our business but our success rests with the people who craft it. It is the people who matter the most, so on this front cover, that my face should appear among those of just some of the members of our division who matter to me gives me a very warm feeling.

Richard (Dick) Jones

Emeritus Professor of Polymer Science at the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK, and guest editor for this CI Special issue.

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