We welcome our new editor-in-chief

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Dear readers and authors of *Colloid and Polymer Science*,

Messages such as announcing the appointment of a new editor-in-chief are usually publicized *with great pleasure and pride*. There is no doubt that we take great pleasure in informing you that as of April 2015, Prof. Dr. Christine M. Papadakis (TU München, Garching, Germany) will succeed Prof. Dr. Walter Richtering (RWTH Aachen University, Germany) in this important role for the journal. At the same time, however, we have to say goodbye to Walter Richtering, seeing him leave with one sad eye, after he has been with the journal for over 10 years [1].

This, however, also is the best occasion to express great thanks to Walter Richtering for his outstanding services as the Editor-in-Chief for *Colloid and Polymer Science*. During the time from 2004 until today, he was involved and helped guarding and guiding the journal through times of significant changes in the publishing landscape. Milestones of this include the setting up of the electronic online manuscript submission system in 2006 [2] (electronic submission is nowadays probably being taken for granted), the introduction of the option for authors to publish fully open access (*OpenChoice*), but also occasions like the 100th anniversary of *Colloid and Polymer Science* in 2006 [3], or the first *Colloid and Polymer Science* lecture, established in the last year 2014 (see <http://www.springer.com/gp/about-springer/media/press-releases/corporate/first-colloid-and-polymer-science-lecture-awarded-to-orlin-velev/34416>).

During most of this time, Walter Richtering has worked together with Friedrich Kremer, forming a particularly successful team of editors. Under their editorship, *Colloid and Polymer Science* has published many highlights: far over 2000 articles (incl. exciting reviews on selected highlight topics), five special issues on selected exciting highlight topics, and very recently the first perspective article [4]. The journal's impact factor has shown a very positive development, rising almost steadily (see Fig. 1). All this has been realized on the basis of a very healthy growth of the journal output. *Colloid and Polymer Science* has hence managed the transition to a modern leading journal in the areas of *colloid* and *polymer* sciences and their interactions.

Walter Richtering has demonstrated a very professional but, at the same time, very open-minded and communicative approach to his editorial responsibilities. This has always been very well perceived and regarded by the regional editors of the journal, presently L. Andrew Lyon, K.L. Ngai, Hiroyuki Ohshima, Jinfeng Dong, Chao Gao, V.P. Shibaev, and Christine M. Papadakis (for an overview of all Editors and the Editorial Board of *Colloid and Polymer Science*, see www.springer.com/396), as well as by the publisher—and we are sure that the authors and reviewers also acknowledge that in the same manner.

Walter Richtering's scientific interests focus on the structure and dynamics of polymer and colloid fluids. Since September 2003, he has been holding a position as Professor for Physical Chemistry at the RWTH Aachen University, Germany. He had studied chemistry at the Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, where he also did his PhD thesis. Afterwards, he stayed for postdoctoral studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA, investigating “Rheological properties of biodegradable thermoplastic elastomers.” He returned to Germany in late 1991 to start his habilitation at the University of Freiburg. After the first position as Professor at the Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, he finally came to

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Fig. 1 Impact factor development of colloid and polymer science from 2004 to 2013 (based on data from ISI Web of Knowledge)

Aachen and, also soon after the move, joined *Colloid and Polymer Science* as Editor-in-Chief, succeeding Prof. Dr. Gerhard Lagaly.

Well over 200 publications document Walter Richtering's great expertise in the field of polymer and colloid science. Through his current position as Vice Chair of the German Colloid Society, Walter Richtering and the journal *Colloid and Polymer Science* will continue to maintain a close and good connection, and we are sure that he will continue to contribute to the journal as an active author and reviewer. He will also become a member of the Editorial Board of the journal.

Please join us in welcoming our new Editor-in-Chief Prof. Dr. Christine M. Papadakis! Starting from April 2015, she will share this responsibility together with Prof. Dr. Annette M. Schmidt. Christine Papadakis brings in an impressive expertise in the field of polymer and colloid physics. She has been holding a Professorship for Experimental Physics, heading the Soft Matter Physics Group at the TU München (Garching, Germany) since 2003. Her research interests focus mainly on the structure and dynamics of block copolymer systems in different phases (e.g., in solution, in gels, and in thin films). Her group applies a variety of tools to study structures on length scales in the mesoscopic range, using techniques such as X-ray or neutron scattering, light scattering, and fluorescence correlation spectroscopy. She is also a member of the Subcommittee of the Scientific Council Structure and Dynamics of Soft Condensed Matter at ILL, Grenoble.

Christine Papadakis had studied physics in Mainz (Germany) and Grenoble (France). For her first extended research experiences, however, she moved to the Scandinavian countries to do PhD research in Roskilde (Denmark) between 1992 and 1996, spending also some time in Uppsala, Sweden (1994/1995). For her postdoctoral time, she stayed in Roskilde, but changing the institution; while she had done her PhD at the Department of Mathematics and Physics of Roskilde University, she then worked at the Condensed Matter Physics and Chemistry Department, Risø National Laboratory. Not only this illustrates that Christine Papadakis has always been interested in studying physics, where it intersects

with colloid science and polymer chemistry—an interest which is perfectly in line with the scope of *Colloid and Polymer Science*. It was in 1998 when Christine Papadakis returned to Germany to start her habilitation at the Faculty of Physics and Earth Sciences of the University of Leipzig. She worked in Leipzig under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Friedrich Kremer—the former Editor-in-Chief of *Colloid and Polymer Science* and presently the Chief Advisory Editor of the journal [1]!

It may perhaps already have been during her time in Leipzig and in the group of Friedrich Kremer that Christine Papadakis developed a good connection and relationship to the journal *Colloid and Polymer Science* (in the following years, she published about 15 % of her articles in *Colloid and Polymer Science*). However, especially recently, she has been able to further strengthen a good connection to *Colloid and Polymer Science* and to get to know the journal very well: in the last year, she has guest-edited the “Special issue in honor of Friedrich Kremer” together with Andreas Schönhals [5]. Shortly thereafter, she joined the team of editors as Regional Editor (Europe). We are all happy that she will now take over the responsibility as Editor-in-Chief.

It is the first time in the history of *Colloid and Polymer Science* that two female Editors-in-Chief hold the positions as the journal's main editors (Fig. 2). Their research interests and expertise nicely complement, so that they will form a very competent team together, covering major areas of interest of *Colloid and Polymer Science*. We look forward to the further development of the journal under their editorship. Further supported by the Chief Advisory Editor Friedrich Kremer, who can look back on over 20 years of experience with *Colloid and Polymer Science*, we are sure that the editors-in-chief will form an excellent cooperative and productive team

Fig. 2 From left to right: Annette Schmidt (Editor-in-Chief (EiC) since 2014), Tobias Wassermann (Springer's responsible Publishing Editor for *Colloid and Polymer Science*), Friedrich Kremer (EiC 1993–2013, Chief Advisory Editor since 2014), Christine Papadakis (EiC since 2015), and Walter Richtering (EiC 2004–2015)

together with the Regional Editors. We hence ask all authors and reviewers of *Colloid and Polymer Science* to continue their cooperation in the same positive way with the team of editors.

We would like to take this occasion to remind our authors that all manuscripts submitted for publication to *Colloid and Polymer Science* should contain information for compliance with ethical standards, e.g., regarding sources of funding, potential conflicts of interest (financial or non-financial). Further detailed information is available in the “Instructions for authors” section on www.springer.com/396.

Last but not least, this editorial is an occasion to extend a warm *thanks* to the most important contributors for the development of a journal such as *Colloid and Polymer Science*: its authors and reviewers. In the name of all editors and the publishing house, we would like to thank you for your trust and

confidence in the journal as well as for your work and dedication, which you invest, so that the journal can continue to publish good science, exciting articles, and true highlights in the field of the *colloid* and *polymer* sciences!

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