## **Plenary Speaker Robert Langer Plans to Focus on Biomaterials**

Robert Langer, Kenneth J. Germeshausen Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at MIT, will give his plenary presentation on "Biomaterials: New Polymers and Novel Applications" at the 1995 MRS Spring Meeting in San Francisco. The Plenary Session is scheduled for Monday, April 17 at 6 p.m.

In his talk, Langer will emphasize the role materials scientists can play in medical research by intentionally synthesizing materials for medical applications to replace the current process of using offthe-shelf materials to address medical problems. In particular, Langer will discuss the use of degradable polymers to deliver the products of biotechnology, such as proteins, peptides, and gene therapy agents, and the use of bioerodible polymers for tissue engineering.

Langer developed his career on biomaterials since, as a postdoctoral fellow, he was the first to discover premises on which the use of polymers could be used



**Robert Langer** 

for the delivery of all molecules with a molecular weight over 500 daltons. From this discovery, he developed an evolution of methods from incorporating molecules into a variety of polymers to finding polymers that could be used for the slow delivery of vaccines.

Langer and his students created the field of controlled release. His research sparked investigations by many researchers and companies who now design controlled release systems for macromolecules considered for medical therapy.

Langer's collaborative research efforts further led him to the discovery of polymeric systems used for tissue engineering. This concept resulted in the development of new skin for burn victims and patients with skin ulcers, and the formation of other tissues such as liver and cartilage.

In 1989, Langer was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and in 1992 he was elected to both the National Academy of Engineering and to the National Academy of Sciences. He is the only active member of all three U.S. National Academies. He has written 420 articles, 122 patents, and edited 9 books.

MR MATERI RESEAR SOCIE		FOR the A als science ar at the forefro <b>RIALS</b> are de ce and techno	pplied Scientist and Engineer Ind technology will be offered in conjunction with the 1995 Spring mot of science and technology and complement Spring Meeting signed to meet the needs of scientists, engineers, professional plogy. For information about registration, student scholarships,
C-07:	AMORPHOUS SILICON MATERIALS AND DEVICES Robert A. Street and Michael Hack, <i>Xerox Palo Alto Research Center</i> Monday, April 17, 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m. Preregistration\$395 On-site\$420 Room Pacific C	P-14:	FILM FORMATION, ADHESION, SURFACE PREPARATION, AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THIN-FILM STRUCTURES Donald M. Mattox, <i>IP Industries</i> Thursday, April 20 and Friday, April 21 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m.
C-32:	ELLIPSOMETRY FUNDAMENTALS AND APPLICATIONS   Robert W. Collins, Penn State University   Eugene A. Irene, University of North Carolina   Friday, April 21, 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m.   Preregistration\$395   On-site\$420   Room Pacific A	P-26:	Preregistration,\$595 On-site
F-10:	FUNDAMENTALS AND APPLICATIONS OF ION BEAM ASSISTED DEPOSITION James K. Hirvonen, U.S. Army Research Laboratory Thursday, April 20, 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m. Preregistration\$395 On-site\$420 Room Pacific A	TP-06:	Preregistration\$395 On-site\$420 Room Pacific B ELECTROMIGRATION James R. Lloyd, <i>Digital Equipment Corporation</i> Monday, April 17, 8:30 a.m 12:30 p.m. Preregistration\$95 On-site\$120 Room Pacific J
M-11:	MAGNETIC THIN FILMS: PHYSICS AND APPLICATIONS   Bruce A. Gurney and Ernesto E. Marinero, IBM Almaden Research Center   Thursday, April 20, and Friday, April 21   8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m.   Preregistration\$595   On-site	<b>TP-11</b> :	FEDERAL MATERIALS RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES Louis lanniello, Consultant (formerly with the Department of Energy) Tuesday, April 18, 8:30 a.m 12:30 p.m. Preregistration\$ 95 On-site\$120 Room Pacific B
M-20:	LIGHT-EMITTING POROUS SILICON - FABRICATION, PROPERTIES, AND DEVICE APPLICATIONS Philippe M. Fauchet, University of Rochester Tuesday, April 18, 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m. Preregistration\$395 On-site\$420 Room Pacific C	TP-12:	GROWTH, CHARACTERIZATION AND APPLICATION OF III NITRIDES Jacques Pankove, Astralux, Inc. Theodore Moustakas, Boston University Monday, April 17, 8:30 a.m 12:30 p.m. Preregistration\$ 95 On-site
M-21:	EPITAXIAL METAL OXIDE FILMS & HETEROSTRUCTURES DEPOSITION R. Ramesh, <i>Bellcore</i> Monday, April 17, 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m.		nction with the Materials Research Society's 1995 Spring Meeting (After March 31, nt course and tutorial registrations will be \$25 higher.)

**Room Pacific A** 

On-site .....\$420

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Preregistration ....\$395