

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR DR. XIN-DE FENG



1915–2005

Professor Dr. Xin-de Feng (Sing-Tuh Voong), Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor at Peking University, former editor-in-chief of this journal, passed away on October 24th, 2005 in Beijing.

X. D. Feng was born on October 12, 1915 in Tong-Li, Wujiang County, Jiangsu Province and graduated from the Chemistry Department of Tsing-Hua University and received his B.S. in 1937. Through a national competitive examination he was offered a national scholarship to study chemistry in the U.S.A. In 1946, he enrolled in the graduate school at the University of Notre Dame under the guidance of the famous Professor C. C. Price and received his Ph. D. in 1948.

In the same year, he returned to China and became a professor at the Chemistry Department of his *Alma Mater*, Tsing-Hua University, in Beijing, and offered a course on polymer chemistry — polymerization reactions. He was the first professor to offer polymer chemistry courses in China. In 1952, he was offered a professorship in the Chemistry Department of Peking University, Beijing, where he established the Division of Polymer Chemistry and acted as the director of polymer research until 1986. As an accomplished pioneer in polymer chemistry and education in China, he received the “Talent Award” from the Chinese Chemical Society in 1989.

He was an adjunct professor of the Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (1956–1966) and the Institute of Photographic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (from 1997). In 1980, he was elected academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and from 1983 to 1993 he was a consultant of SINOPEC Corporation. In 1984, he was a guest professor at the “Research Center of Biomaterial and Biomedical Polymers” of Kyoto University, and from 1988 to 1994 he served as an affiliated professor with the Center of Bioengineering at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Professor Feng’s important scientific contributions came from various areas of polymer chemistry including the following: (1) The role of amine in redox and photoinduced polymerization; (2) The role of Ce^{4+} in graft copolymerization and control of grafting site; (3) Living ring-opening polymerization of lactides and controlled drug delivery systems; (4) The role of O_2 -CCT (contact charge transfer) in polymer aging and bioaging processes. Since 1949, he had published over 250 research papers in domestic and international journals, over 20 review articles and a book of “Polymer Synthetic Chemistry” (Volume I). In 1998, he received the Chemical Prize of the HL-HL (Ho Leung and Ho Lee Foundation of Hong Kong) Award of Scientific and Technological Progress and also the first prize of biomedical polymer research from the Ministry of Education in China.

He is widely recognized as an active promoter of academic exchange and cooperation among worldwide polymer scientists that opened China to the rest of the scientific world. He has initiated two important series symposia: (1) Since 1981, the “International Symposium on Polymeric Biomaterials” was held every two or three years, including the Post Symposium of 4th World Biomaterial Congress (Kyoto, 1988), which was held in Kunming, China, in May 1988; (2) The “China-Japan Symposium on Radical Polymerization” held every other year from 1980 to 1991 in Japan and China, which was extended to the “Asia Polymer Symposium” from 1993 to 2004 in Japan, China and Korea. He also organized the “IUPAC International Symposium on Olefin and Vinyl Polymerization and Funtionalization — Reaction, Mechanism and Industrial Application”, which was held in Hangzhou, China, in 1991.

Professor Feng was one of the founders of the two polymer journals in China, i.e. the “Acta Polymerica Sinica” in Chinese and the “Chinese Journal of Polymer Science” in English and served as editor-in-chief from 1987 to 2003. He made great contributions to the development of the two journals.

He had significantly contributed to the creation and development of modern polymer chemistry in China. Professor Feng is a respected and beloved scientist in the domestic and international polymer community.

Professor Dr. Xin-de Feng will always live in our hearts.

Editorial Board

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