

Vale Professor Otto Vogl (1927-2013)



Members of the Australian and New Zealand polymer communities will be saddened to learn of the death of Otto Vogl on April 27, 2013. Otto was educated in Austria at the University of Vienna where he obtained his PhD degree in 1950 for his work on steroid chemistry. He later took up post doctoral positions at the University of Michigan and at Princeton University before joining E.I. du Pont de Nemours in 1956.

After 14 years working in industry he was appointed to a Professorship in Polymer Science at the University of Massachusetts and then in 1983 he became the first Herman F. Mark Chair of Polymer Science at Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, New York. He retired in 1996.

Otto had broad interests in polymer science ranging from polymer synthesis and characterization to polymeric drugs and oriental lacquers, and he was the author of in excess of 400 papers and several patents, for which he received numerous national and international awards. He was a member of the editorial board of several well known journals, including the Journal of the American Chemical Society, Journal of Polymer Science and Journal of Macromolecular Science and he was the Editor-in -Chief of Progress in Polymer Science.

He was a passionate ambassador for polymer science both within the USA and internationally, and an active member of the ACS Polymer Division. He visited Australia and New Zealand on several occasions and attended APS conferences. He was also a generous host to many Australian and New Zealand polymer

scientists when they visited the USA. Otto was an enthusiastic supporter of international exchange of scientists, and especially of students and young researchers. He was an engaging leader and skilful negotiator during the formation of the Pacific Polymer Federation, for which he will be well remembered by many Australasian polymer scientists. This organization owes much to his vision for polymer science in the Pacific basin.

Following his retirement, Otto and his wife Jane returned to Massachusetts where they lived a quieter life, though Otto always maintained an active interest in polymer science. He has left polymer science with a wonderful legacy of achievement.

Dave Hill