

# **New Performance from Old Monomers: Advances in Olefin Block Copolymers**

*Edmund (Ted) Carnahan, Ph.D.  
Research Fellow*

*Performance Plastics R&D  
The Dow Chemical Company  
230 Abner Jackson Pkwy  
Herbert H. Dow 2B231  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566979-238-1456  
ecarnahan@dow.com*

Carbon and hydrogen, organized appropriately, have generated a massive global industry with products touching most aspects of modern life. Three quarters of a century later, scientists are still able to extract additional performance from these diminutive polymer chains. Our search for ways to craft polyethylene with a better balance of flexibility and heat resistance led to some fascinating discoveries in catalysis and polymer materials science. Along the way, The Dow Chemical Company commercialized INFUSE™ Olefin Block Copolymers and INTUNE™ Olefin Block Copolymers. The path from “interesting science” to “valuable products” will be explored, with real-world examples of what it can take to commercialize new technology in a seemingly-mature field.

---

™Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company