

## Preface

This special issue of Defect and Diffusion Forum contains selected papers presented at the Fourth International Conference on Diffusion in Solids and Liquids (DSL-2008) held at the Hotel Meliá Barcelona, Spain during the period 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> July, 2008.

The goal of the conference was to provide a unique opportunity to exchange information, to present the latest results as well as to review the relevant issues on contemporary diffusion research. Young scientists were especially encouraged to attend the conference and to establish international networks with well-known scientists.

Several topics were highlighted in the scope of special sessions and some of the presented papers are collected in this volume: *Heat and Mass Transfer in Porous Media* (by J. Delgado), *Thermodynamics, Kinetics and Structure of Interfaces and Associated Phenomena* (by B. Bokstein and V. Popov), *Heat Transfer in Cellular and Composite Materials: Gas and Fluid Flow, Conduction and Radiation* (by A. Öchsner and E. Solórzano) and *Diffusion in Nanomaterials* (by I.V. Belova and G.E. Murch; selected papers were published in a special issue of the Journal of Nano Research by TTP).

More than 212 scientists and researchers coming from more than 16 countries attended the conference. The large number of presented papers emphasises the considerable academic and industrial interest in the conference theme. The editors wish to thank the authors and delegates for their participation and cooperation, which made this fourth conference especially successful.

Finally, we wish to express our warm thanks and appreciation to our colleagues and associates for their sustained assistance, help and enthusiasm during the preparation of the conference.

The fifth conference, DSL-2009, will be held in the exciting city of Rome, Italy, from 24-26 June, 2009 (<http://www.dsl2009-rome.com/>).

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