

PREFACE

After the excellent meeting in Chengdu, China, Bioceramics 20 is held in Nantes, France, from the 24th to the 26th of October 2007. More than 350 participants from 30 countries attend this annual meeting of the International Society for Ceramics in Medicine. Traditionally, the Bioceramics symposia served as the forum for the scientific and industrial communities to share fundamental research, clinical and technological applications. The present 20th edition reflects this tradition of multidisciplinary and transversal research from the basics to the clinics.

This volume of the Bioceramics series includes the papers selected for the 20th International Symposium on Ceramics in Medicine. The contents feature advanced calcium phosphate bioceramics, cements, bioglasses and composites as bone substitutes, bioactive titanium and metals, zirconia ceramics for orthopaedics, dental materials, scaffolds for bone tissue engineering, drug delivery, animal studies and clinical applications. The challenge today concerns the development of materials and technologies that support the regeneration of osteoarticular tissues while preventing the use of invasive or non-bioactive prosthesis. The papers reported in this book were selected after a blind peer-reviewing process of abstracts that involved over 100 scientists. Without the collaboration of all the reviewers, this book would not have existed. Nevertheless, this traditional book with proceedings published in *Key Engineering Materials* needs to evolve to modern forms of diffusion of scientific results with selected papers published in an indexed journal.

This year, we have added a specific review reflecting the scientific achievements of the local organizing committee. Both the French Ministry of Research and the Regional Council 'Pays de la Loire' have financially supported in the last 12 years our research projects associating laboratories from Le Mans, Angers and Nantes.

We would like to acknowledge all the institutions, organizations and companies who have sponsored Bioceramics 20. We thank particularly the support of the "Ville de Nantes, Conseil Général de Loire Atlantique et la Région des Pays de Loire".

We are grateful to all the members of the Executive Committee of the International Society for Ceramics in Medicine, the International Scientific Committee and the local organizing committee for their valuable experience and help in the organization of this conference. Special thanks go to Valérie Dumay, who had taken the hard task of Symposium secretary.

We hope that many researchers will find inspiration for the future advancement of Bioceramics in this book and that they will enjoy the scientific presentations during the Bioceramics 20 Symposium.

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