

Editorial

Since its establishment in form of a non-government and non-profit scientific association, Yugoslav Materials Research Society has been involved in vital coordination of research activities in the field of materials science and engineering, both on domestic and international levels of organization. Its main goal has been related to provision of conditions for diverse scientific projects, ideas and world-views to meet, interact and produce pragmatic cooperative links in form of international and global scientific projects with wide contextual aspects and potential significance. By providing conditions for such cooperative encounters, the fosterage of individual R&D creativities and scientific vigour invested in local research projects has been hopefully produced in return.

The 2006 Conference was attended by approximately 200 participants from more than 30 countries. During its course, 161 papers were presented, either orally or in form of posters. Excellent and inspiring presentations of research activities developed in some of the leading academic and industrial laboratories world-wide could have been enjoyed. Many participants have openly expressed their satisfaction with the quality and intellectual breadth of the presented works. All of the submitted papers were reviewed by the members of the Scientific Committee and the corresponding accessory review team. The 92 papers accepted for the final edition were judged as sufficiently original and representative to find their place in the record of the Conference, acknowledged herein in form of the book entitled as RESEARCH TRENDS IN CONTEMPORARY MATERIALS SCIENCE.

Ninety-two papers selected for this volume by the Editors are categorized into nine topical sections: **I Nanostructured Materials; II Solid State Phenomena; III Fine Particles; IV Thin Films; V Materials for Hydrogen Energy; VI Optical Materials; VII Biomaterials; VIII Polymers & Composites; and IX Metallic Systems.**

The Editors are grateful to all Yu-MRS officers and members of the International Advisory Board for their efforts made in organizing the Conference successfully and assembling its presentational content into the final selection of representative articles. Foreign and domestic reviewers - 115 of them listed on pages xi-xii – are particularly acknowledged in providing their expertise for the purpose of obtaining an excellent and highly relevant selection of papers, presented in form of this book.

Steadfast help and enthusiasm of Ms. Aleksandra Stojičić, Secretary of the Conference, are also gratefully appreciated. The Editors would like to acknowledge her technical editing of the Conference material before, during and after the Conference has taken place. The Editors are also indebted to Mrs. Verica Korica-Roglić for English grammar corrections and syntax editing, to Ms. Smilja Marković, Ms. Ivana Jovanović and Ms. Marija Jevtić who provided assistance with technical support, registration, and communicational aspects of the Conference organization, and to Smilja again for an additional help during the final stages of technical editing of this book.

Last but not the least, our gratitude goes to the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia for their continual financial support in organizing these Conferences and publishing their Proceedings.

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