

PREFACE

The 10th International Symposium on Metastable, Mechanically Alloyed and Nanocrystalline Materials 2003, ISMANAM-2003 was held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, from 24th to 28th August 2003. The ISMANAM was first held in Grenoble in 1994, following a series of pioneering symposia and workshops on related subjects held in Grenoble (1990, 1991 and 1994), Irsee (Germany 1992), Cambridge (1993), and Kyoto (ISMA 1991). ISMANAM 2003 was the 10th in the annual ISMANAM series. The previous ISMANAM symposia were held in Seoul (2002), Ann Arbor (2001), Oxford (2000), Dresden ('99), Wollongong ('98), Sitges ('97), Rome ('96), Quebec ('95) and Grenoble ('94).

Approximately 160 participants from 22 countries attended the symposium and 193 papers were presented; 27 in invited or keynote lectures, 30 in oral presentations and 136 as posters. After the reviewing process 124 papers were accepted for publication in this special volume of Journal of Metastable and Nanocrystalline Materials. The strong international participation and high quality of presentations is an indication of the continuing interest in the field of metastable and nanocrystalline materials in fundamental research and applied engineering.

Among the various topics covered during the Symposium, many contributions were in the field of bulk metallic glasses and bulk nanocrystalline materials, including thermodynamic, transformation kinetics, detailed characterization during structural evolution and mechanical properties. Other major contributions were in the area of synthesis and processing of metallic alloys, intermetallics, oxides, nanocomposites and others by different techniques including mechanosynthesis, mechanochemistry and severe plastic deformation. The mechanical, magnetic and electrochemical properties of metastable and nanocrystalline materials were also covered in many papers with special focus on applications. As in previous Symposia, ISMANAM 2003 provided a state-of-the-art overview of research activities and technological development highlighting the most recent achievements in these fields.

ISMANAM 2003 prize of Distinguished Senior-Scientist was awarded to Prof. Ricardo B. Schwarz in recognition of outstanding scientific contributions in the field of the Symposium.

The ISMANAM Steering Committee has accepted the bid of Prof. Akihisa Inoue to host ISMANAM 2004 in Sendai, Japan. A bid by Prof. A.R. Yavari to hold ISMANAM 2005 in France has also been provisionally accepted.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the colleagues which contributed to the success of ISMANAM 2003; the members of the ISMANAM Steering Committee and International Advisory Committee, session chairs, invited speakers and all the participants. Furthermore we would like to thank the Local Organizing Committee and the invaluable administrative support of M.E.Canevarolo, T.Cera and R.C.de Luca, before and during the Symposium. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the financial support of many industrial companies and the following Brazilian Institutions; FAPESP, CNPq, CAPES and Federal University of São Carlos through the Center for Materials Characterization, CCDM, Graduate Program in Materials Science and Engineering, PPG-CEM, and Department of Materials Engineering, DEMa. Without their support the Symposium would have been less successful.

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