This issue of Materials Research contains 20 articles selected from those presented at the 59th Annual congress of ABM - Associação Brasileira de Metalurgia e Materiais, held in 2004, which celebrated the 60th birthday of the association. If one considers the history of similar associations in Latin America, this is a quite significant mark, since few technical societies have achieved such long period of existence. Along these many decades, ABM has definitely helped the development of Metallurgy in our country, through the annual congress and many other activities, such as courses, publications and thematic seminars, which have contributed to the formation of several generations of professionals. It is, therefore, with great pride that Materials Research rends tribute to one of its founding societies in this meaningful celebration.

The papers included in this issue followed the revision process of our journal and were selected, by the coordinators of the technical sessions, among those originally submitted to the conference in English, in response to a call for the preparation of this special number of Materials Research.

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Guest Editor
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