This issue of Materials Research includes 20 articles selected from those presented at the XVI Congresso Brasileiro de Engenharia e Ciência dos Materiais - CBECIMAT, held in Porto Alegre - RS on December 2004. A total of 45 manuscripts were submitted during the XVI CBECIMAT for publication in this special issue and were processed according to the regular peer review process used by our journal.

The CBECIMAT, the most traditional Brazilian congress on materials, reached with this 16th edition the important mark of 30 years of contribution to the publication of scientific and technological work developed in Brazil and also to the discussion of technical and political matters related to materials research and technology in our country since its first edition in 1974.

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Luiz Antonio Pessan
Guest Editor
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