
Editorial

Ever since the word **structology** was first used, back in 1989, its meaning has been coined on a firm basis. Structology can be defined as the science that describes the nature (constitution) and the geometry of the structure of inorganic and organic materials in its different dimensional levels and also its relationships with their formation and properties.

This special issue of *Materials Research* presents articles selected from **the First Brazilian Symposium on Structology**, held in Belo Horizonte, in October 1998. The Symposium was idealized and organized by the Nucleus of Application and Development of the Science and Engineering of Microstructures - NADCEM.

The Organizing Committee approved 120 abstracts for presentation at the Symposium. Among those abstracts, one hundred presentations took place at the meeting, in both oral and poster sections. Out of the presented works, 50 full papers were submitted, which were thoroughly revised by at least two referees each. The recommended manuscripts were sent back to the authors for the required modifications and improvements. About 25 revised articles returned and finally 20 papers were selected for publication

We are very pleased to complete the fourth issue of *Materials Research* (MR) with the launch of yet another thematic volume. The first four issues contained approximately fifty articles carefully selected from the *one hundred* papers submitted for publication to this journal. The evaluation process involved around 230 referees who analyzed each article both before and after corrections had been made, with several members of the editorial council contributing to this essential task.

The journal is already indexed in the following reference bases: *Chemical Abstracts*, *World Ceramic Abstracts* and *International Pool of Glass Abstracts*. We are now waiting for a response to our request for membership in the *SciELO* base at Fapesp/Bireme, which is connected to the ISI. Acceptance for inclusion in this base will mean the simultaneous launch of the electronic version of MR and should greatly facilitate the journal's financing and its indexing by the ISI.

As of the next issue, we hope to achieve a stronger involvement on the part of the members of our editorial staff, which is currently undergoing some changes. We would

in this issue. The entire process was very selective and, in fact, many potentially qualified articles were not recommended for publication in this issue. The authors of those articles were suggested to submit them to further analysis and publication in a regular issue of *Materials Research*.

The success of the First Brazilian Symposium on Structology allows us to foresee the second meeting, which is planned for the 2000-2001 period. We would like to use this opportunity to thank every one who gave his or her contribution to the Symposium, specially each participant of the meeting. We are especially grateful to the invaluable contribution of Dr. Robert DeHoff. We deeply appreciate the support of UFMG, CDTN, FAPEMIG, CNPq, ACESITA and FAPESP.

Finally, we would like to dedicate this special issue of the *Materials Research* to the scientific community who deals with and uses structology. We hope that the contributions presented in this issue will be useful and seed further research in the fascinating field of structology.

Wander L. Vasconcelos
Guest Editor

like to take this opportunity to thank the members who are leaving and who contributed toward the launch of MR, and we are counting on those who remain to help consolidate the journal.

The financial resources to edit, produce and print this second issue were provided by CNPq. We would also like to express our appreciation for the support of the Department of Materials Engineering – DEMA/Ufscar in helping to defray postal, fax and telephone costs, the NIT/Ufscar for the creation and maintenance of the journal's homepage, and the secretaries of ABC, ABPol and ABM who all contributed toward the dissemination and management of subscriptions and financial resources.

Finally, on behalf of the editorial council, we thank Prof. Wander L. Vasconcelos, member of the editorial council and, very deservedly, *Guest Editor*, for his efforts and invaluable help in the organization, fund raising and selection of the articles published in this thematic issue.

Edgar Dutra Zanotto
Chief Editor
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