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Preface

This special issue of *Catalysis Today* is devoted to current developments in combinatorial heterogeneous catalysis and represents the editor's attempt to provide a snapshot of this rapidly developing field of applied materials science. A wide range of topics in combinatorial catalysis is covered in this issue. The response of the authors for the publication of this issue has been gratifying, and the editor believes that it reflects a growing interest in the application of new high throughput methodologies in the field of heterogeneous catalysis.

Although the high-throughput synthesis and kinetic screening of the catalyst libraries and data-handling have been the main focus of the studies in this special issue, further development of in situ microcharacterization techniques is needed to elucidate the nature of the active surface sites present in combinatorial catalysts. It is hoped that this issue will stimulate catalysis researchers to look for such characterization techniques that will provide fundamental molecular structure–reactivity relationships which will guide rational combinatorial design of novel heterogeneous catalysts.

This issue would not have been materialized without the efforts of the contributing authors and the reviewers to ensure that all accepted papers meet the quality standards of *Catalysis Today*. The editor wishes to thank the reviewers for their suggestions, which improved this issue, and the authors for their efforts in addressing the reviewers' comments. Finally, the editor wishes to express his appreciation for the encouragement and assistance of Dr. J. (Jerry) Spivey, Associate Editor. The editor hopes that readers will benefit from these internationally drawn efforts in combinatorial heterogeneous catalysis.

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