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Preface

This Special Issue of “Catalytic Synthesis and Utilization of Alcohols” includes selected papers from a symposium held during the American Chemical Society 236th National Meeting & Exposition, August 17–21, 2008 in Philadelphia. The catalytic synthesis and utilization of alcohols play a critical role in the identification of alternative energy sources to petroleum. This symposium was focused on the non-biological synthesis of methanol and higher alcohols and polyols, and the use of these alcohols in various processes such as clean fuels, fuel additives and hydrogen carriers. The presentations were divided into the following topics:

- Preparation and characterization of catalysts for the synthesis of alcohols from syngas.
- Kinetic and mechanistic studies of catalytic reactions leading to the formation of alcohols.
- Catalytic reforming of alcohols to hydrogen-rich gas.
- Catalytic conversion of alcohols to higher value products.
- Catalytic conversion of biomass to alcohols and polyols.

We believe that the papers included in this Special Issue provide a useful overview of current research in the above-mentioned topics. The papers provide a variety of catalytic routes to produce alcohols and polyols from traditional sources such as syngas, as well as from alternative feedstocks such as biomass derivatives. The papers also provide a combination of theory and experiments

in identifying promising catalytic materials for both alcohol synthesis and utilization.

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