



Editorial

When it was first published in 1986, *Catalysis Today* was a novel concept: it was not the object to publish regular papers; rather, the issues would be composed of conference papers, collections of reviews or monographs all on specific topics of significant current interest in catalysis. The concept has been exceptionally successful and *Catalysis Today* is now among the top international journals dealing with the catalytic science and engineering. Its impact factor in 2008 was 3.004.

This success has been due to the hard work of the many Guest Editors who have willingly arranged and edited each of the issues. However, the success is also due to the work of the Associate Editors who have laboured behind the scenes to ensure that everything is done to the highest international standards and that the range of special issues selected for publication covers the most important advances in the subject area. Ben Nieuwenhuis has been one of these Associate Editors since 2000. Ben, who has been a Professor at the University of Leiden and has also held a part-time position at Eindhoven University of Technology, has recently retired from these positions and has decided that he should also stand down as Associate Editor of *Catalysis Today* at the end of this year. Ben's research work stands at the interface between catalysis and surface science and his experience in this area has been invaluable to the development of *Catalysis Today* over the last 10 years. His wise counsel and hard work will be sorely missed by those of us who have got used to relying on his knowledge, patience and skill. A special issue in Ben's honour is currently being prepared and much more will no doubt be said there about his many scientific achievements. We hope to see a lot more of you in the future, Ben.

We are delighted to welcome as our new European Associate Editor Professor Miguel A. Bañares of the Instituto de Catálisis y Petroleoquímica, CSIC, Madrid, Spain. Miguel obtained his PhD at the University of Salamanca in 1992 under the supervision of Prof. José Luis G. Fierro. He then did postdoctoral work in the US, first with Israel Wachs in Lehigh University and then with Eduardo

Wolf and Thomas P. Fehlner at Notre Dame University before returning to take up a position at CSIC where he is now a Research Professor. His research aims at understanding structure–activity relationships on oxide catalysts based on in situ studies during catalytic reaction. The approach stands on the so-called operando methodology that determines both structure and activity in a single experiment. His main effort is in the use of operando Raman–GC methodologies, but also other spectroscopies such as UV–vis and IR. Reactions of interest include valorization of paraffins to olefins, nitriles and oxygenates, environmental and energy-related catalysis; more recently, real-time spectroscopic study of fine chemical reactions and catalytic processes. He is the Chairman of the COST Action D36 (European Union) (2006–2011).

We are also delighted to welcome in the position of Asian Associate Editor Professor Yongdan Li of Tianjin University, China. Having obtained his PhD from Tianjin University in 1989, Yongdan spent a year in Tianjin as a lecturer before coming to Europe for a postdoc for 2 years, initially at the University of Twente and then at CNRS, DCPR-ENSIC, INPL at Nancy, France. He returned to Tianjin in 1993 and is currently Director of the Tianjin Key Laboratory on Applied Catalysis Science and Engineering, a laboratory which he founded in 2004. His research interests include solid oxide and direct carbon fuel cells, membrane reactors for hydrogen production, carbon nanofibers, steam-reforming of methane and ethanol, applications of ionic liquids in catalysis, and natural gas and petroleum upgrading.

Jerry Spivey and I look forward to working with Miguel and Yongdan and hope that they will enjoy working on *Catalysis Today*. We are always happy to discuss proposals for new topical issues so please get in touch with any of us if you have any suggestions.

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