

## **Preface**

Recent rapid advances in research and increased interest in subsecond thermophysical measurements created the need for having a meeting among the key researchers. As the result, the First Workshop on Subsecond Thermophysics was organized. The Workshop was held at the National Bureau of Standards (presently National Institute of Standards and Technology) in Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, on June 20–21, 1988, in conjunction with the Tenth Symposium on Thermophysical Properties.

The objective of the Workshop was to provide a forum for discussions on both experimental and theoretical aspects of thermophysical behavior of matter subjected to thermal changes in short times (millisecond to picosecond time regimes). Both rapid volume heating (resistive self-heating) and rapid surface heating (laser pulse heating) techniques were included. Emphasis was placed on measurements at very high temperatures, where rapid pulse-heating techniques provide a unique approach to obtaining much needed properties data and to understanding the fundamental mechanisms governing the behavior of matter under conditions near and far removed from equilibrium.

The Workshop consisted of five regular sessions and a panel discussion session. In the regular sessions, 15 invited speakers presented papers. A group of panelists discussed the key issues and the future directions in research related to subsecond thermophysics.

This Special Proceedings Issue of the *International Journal of Thermophysics* contains 17 papers that were presented at the Workshop and a paper that summarizes the panel discussion.

The Second Workshop on Subsecond Thermophysics is scheduled to take place at Istituto di Metrologia "G. Colonnetti" in Torino, Italy, on September 20–21, 1990 (Chairman, F. Righini).

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*Chairman of the First Workshop on  
Subsecond Thermophysics*