

## Foreword

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The 8th European Symposium on Electrochemical Engineering represents a continuation of the over 20-year-old tradition of successful symposia organized by the Working Party on Electrochemical Engineering (WP) of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE). The first Symposium was organized in the year 1984. Since then the Symposia have fulfilled their main aim, i.e. of bringing together specialists in this particular field of engineering science and providing them with a representative overview of the latest developments in the field. During these years the Symposium has become a well established event on an international scale, stimulating the exchange of information and scientific collaboration.

In the year 2007 a decision was taken by the WP members to organize the 8th Symposium in Prague. This was the second time we had the honor of organizing this event. The first Symposium held in Prague took place in 1996. That time the chief organizer was Professor Ivo Roušar.

In order to reflect recent developments in engineering sciences the motto selected for the 8th Symposium was "Process intensification through understanding of microscale phenomena". The Symposium and its topics attracted significant interest in spite of strong competition from the numerous conferences taking place at this time of the year. It is interesting to note the gradual shift in the focal topics presented during this series of individual Symposia. A slow but sure shift of interest from classical issues to environmental

protection, fuel cell technology, microscale phenomena and water electrolysis as a hydrogen source for the future hydrogen economy concept is well visible. This confirms the strength and vitality of our common scientific field.

It should also be mentioned that, in accordance with tradition, on the occasion of the Symposium the Carl Wagner Medal of Excellence was awarded to young researchers active in the field of applied electrochemistry and electrochemical engineering. Numerous high quality applications were received by the selection committee, making it an extremely difficult task to choose one of them. After careful deliberation Dr. Christina Roth (TU Darmstadt, Germany) and Dr. Alexandros Katsaounis (TU Crete, Greece) came out as the winners. The first two articles of this special issue present a brief introduction to their work.

At this point I would like to thank the WP members for their support during the preparation of this Symposium and all participants for an attractive program with a high number of interesting contributions and numerous meetings and fruitful discussions with colleagues. But here I wish to express my gratitude mainly to the authors of the papers published in this issue of the Journal of Applied Electrochemistry for agreeing to submit a paper based on their contribution to the Symposium. My special thanks also go to the referees of the manuscripts, who did an excellent job and contributed substantially to the quality of the papers published here.

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