



Introductory Editorial

There are few individuals who one could point to who have had as large an impact on the field of Electroceramics as Professor Robert E. Newnham. He, together with his colleague Professor Eric Cross, at the Pennsylvania State University, have been responsible for training a very large percentage of the scientists, engineers and academics active in ferroelectrics and piezoelectrics in the US as well as many top 'ferroelectricians' in other parts of the world. His educational reach has extended much beyond the training of his own students, postdoctoral associates and visiting scientists. I suspect that there are few people in the field who have not been stimulated to venture into new areas after hearing Bob present one of his invited hand drawn and colored presentations at annual meetings and international conferences. The same can be said for his many published papers and review articles. Bob's work on composite piezoelectrics has had an enormous impact on the field of piezoelectric sensors and actuators and has stimulated the development of many novel devices and products. He was one of the first to propose and demonstrate 'smart' materials and likewise stimulated much work along these lines. So it is indeed appropriate that this special issue of the Journal of Electroceramics be the first to honor an individual of such high standing and regard. We are particularly indebted to Dr. James F. Tressler and Professor Kenji Uchino for serving as guest editors and organizing the preparation of this issue. I am sure that you will find this issue stimulating and of great interest.

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