

Preface

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Almost 700 scientists from 15 countries gathered in Recife from October 16–19, 2005, for the 4th meeting of the Brazilian Society for Materials Research (Brazil-MRS), also known by its Portuguese name, Sociedade Brasileira de Pesquisa em Materiais (SBPMat). The program committee chaired by Celso P. de Melo and Anderson S. L. Gomes, from Federal University of Pernambuco assembled eight symposia as follows: Symposium A, Synthesis, Characterization and Application of Nanoparticles and Nanocomposites; Symposium B, Supramolecular Materials and Organic Devices; Symposium C, Biocompatible Materials; Symposium D, Structural Materials: Processing, Properties and Applications; Symposium E, Advances in Photonics Materials and Applications; Symposium F, Magnetic Material: Preparation, Characterization and Application; Symposium G, Superconducting Materials; Symposium H Sol–gel Materials. (1) The program included four plenary sessions. Plenary I on Electron Microscopy as an Essential Tool in Nanotechnologies; Plenary II: Construction of Molecular Nano-Structures and Electronic Properties; Plenary III: Multifunctional Organic/Inorganic Hybrids; Plenary IV: From High-Temperature Superconductivity to Complex Electron Systems.

As a founding member of the Brazilian-MRS, the Brazilian State Minister for Science and Technology, Sergio Machado Rezende, attended the meeting and delivered a plenary presentation. Except for his talk, nearly all the oral presentations were presented in

English, which emphasized the international flavor of the meeting. A poster session was held each evening, and there was an equipment exhibit. Slightly more than 600 technical presentations were made, either orally or as posters, and the strongly interdisciplinary program provoked lively discussions both informally and in the formal sessions.

With a population of around 2 million, the city of Recife ranks 5th in Brazil and is the second major metropolitan area in the north east region of the country. Surrounded by beautiful beaches and neighbor to Olinda, a historical city preserved by UNESCO, Recife has an important industrial infrastructure and host the Federal University of Pernambuco, one of the largest and productive in the country, and several research centers. Previous Brazilian MRS meeting did take place in Rio de Janeiro and in Foz de Iguassu, sites also famous for their natural beauty and hospitality.

The papers contained in this special issue are from topics presented in different symposia; therefore, this volume does not capture the full spectrum of activities that were discussed. We hope, however, that it provides a sense of the rich variety of activities involved in the meeting, thus displaying the interdisciplinary nature of the society.

We would like to thank all participants for contributing to the success of the 4th Brazilian MRS Meeting. We wish to extend our appreciation to those who reviewed manuscripts for its volume and to Profs Grant Norton and Mark Aindow who handled much of the editing. We would also like to express our gratitude to the following Brazilian funding agencies and institutions for the financial support: CNPq, CAPES, FAPERJ, FAPESP, PETROBRÁS and UFPe.

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