

## *Preface*

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It is a great pleasure for us, as Editors, to be associated with the preparation of this Special Issue of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, which contains papers presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brazilian Congress on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (II CBRATEC), which was held at Poços de Caldas, MG, Brazil, April 9–13, 2000. It was also the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan-American Congress, where more than 230 papers were presented by invited foreign and national lecturers and about 420 authors, mainly from Brazilian universities, research institutes and industries, indicating a substantial growth of thermal analysis activities in Brazil. As we will try to tell very briefly, this is a consequence of the evolution of the field in Brazil, since the first paper published in the late 40's (L. Barzaghi and J. S. Nogami, *Miner. e Metal.*, 14 (1949) 60), with a significant increase in the organization and productivity in the 90's.

Institutional thermal analysis activities in Brazil began mainly in the 50's, by using ownmade differential thermal analysis instruments, first at the Agronomical Institute of Campinas by J. Paiva Neto and A. C. Nascimento to characterize soils for agricultural use, and later at the Technological Research Institute of São Paulo State (IPT) by Fernando Arcury Jr., followed by Dr. Pérsio de Souza Santos to study mineral raw materials for the ceramic industry. By the 60's Souza Santos, as Professor at São Paulo University (USP), was already advising graduate students thesis using thermal analysis characterization techniques. In the 70's Prof. Claudio Costa Neto was supervising graduate students using commercial instruments at the Rio de Janeiro Federal University (UFRJ) and Prof. Dr. Ivo Giolito started in the same decade a research laboratory specifically for thermoanalytical studies at the USP Chemistry Institute, where he supervised many PhD Thesis of current professors who are nowadays the leaders of thermal analysis research groups in Brazilian Institutions. The Guest Editors of this issue are examples of this 'Brazilian Thermal Analysis Education Chain': Prof. Valter J. Fernandes Jr. was advised by Prof. Giolito and Prof. Jo Dweck by Prof. Souza Santos, to whom we thank for the main information about the two initial decade activities in Brazil and references.

It is important to note that Dr. Edith Turi has also given significant contributions to motivate, and to increase the number of Brazilian thermal analysis users and researchers. Invited by Prof. Eloisa Biasotto Mano at UFRJ in 1987 and by Prof. Giolito at USP in 1989, she lectured her Course on Thermal Analysis in Research and Production during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brazilian Thermal Analysis Meetings, which were attended, respectively, by more than 100 and 160 researchers from university and industry, who had the opportunity to deeply discuss their thermal analysis activities and future projects with her.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting in 1987, when six Brazilian Regional Thermal Analysis Groups were founded, Prof. Giolito, who passed away in 1992, was the first to propose the foundation of the Brazilian Association of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ABRATEC), which was founded in September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1997 with Prof. Lázaro Moscardini D'Assunção as its first and current President. He has always been working hard for the cause, and has been the head of the organizing committees of the Brazilian events since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brazilian Thermal Analysis Meeting in 1996 in Alfenas, MG. In 1998 the 1<sup>st</sup> Brazilian Congress on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry was held, the second was in 2000, and the next is planned to be in 2002. Detailed information about ABRATEC, board members, sponsors and events may be obtained at the website: [www.abratec.com.br](http://www.abratec.com.br).

We would like to express ABRATEC acknowledgments to the Brazilian Federal, State and Municipal Government Agencies and to the foreign thermal analysis instrument manufacturers with their Brazilian representatives for the support that has been given to promote the Brazilian thermal analysis events, as well as to all those who somehow contributed to the growth of the thermal analysis field and education in Brazil and to the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry for the opportunity to edit this Conference Issue.

Guest Editors:

**Jo Dweck**

**Valter José Fernandes Jr.**

