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*Preface*

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This issue of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry contains a selection of papers presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> International Vacuum Microbalance Techniques Conference held at Wrocław University of Technology during 29 June–1 July, 2005. This is the second IVMT Conference held in Poland, the first being the 1997 Conference held at Lublin.

Discussions at this conference were concerned on the investigation of the morphology of solid surfaces, both geometric and energetic, and of the instruments required. Subject of lectures had been basic principles of weighing and new developments of apparatus around the balance (oven, vacuum technique). Applications covered special thermogravimetric, thermoanalytic and sorptometric methods as well as quite new investigations of thin film fracture. Several papers are concerned with speeding up of measurements and evaluation of thermogravimetric and sorptometric results with regard to surface heterogeneity. The inter-disciplinary nature of advances leads to the broadening of techniques applied in scientific investigations. Thus, the papers in this Special Issue cover vacuum microbalance techniques as well as related ones.

The continued occurrence of these gatherings has helped microbalance and surface scientists, instrument manufacturers and users to meet in an informal atmosphere and to exchange ideas and disseminate information on new developments. Thus we look forward to the 31<sup>st</sup> International VMT Conference to be organised in Izmir, Turkey, by Professor Devrim Balköse in September 12–14, 2007.

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Grzegorz Chądryński  
Amara Jayaweera  
Erich Robens

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Ali, Z., Middlesbrough, UK  
Balköse, D., Izmir, Turkey  
Barkia, H., Rabat, Morocco  
Ben Chanaa, M., Marrakesh, Morocco  
Błażejowski, J., Gdańsk, Poland  
Candlin, J. P., Middlesbrough, UK  
Chączyński, G. W., Wrocław, Poland  
Escoubes, M., Cologne-sur-Mont d'Or, France  
Gast, Th., Berlin, Germany  
Gladyshevskii, R., Lviv, Ukraine  
Glaeser, M., Braunschweig, Germany  
Hałas, M., Lublin, Poland  
Jayaweera, S. A. A., Middlesbrough, UK  
Jemal, M., Tunis, Tunisie  
Keller, J. U., Siegen, Germany  
Kristóf, J., Veszprém, Hungary

Małeckı, A., Cracow, Poland  
Massen, C. H., Eindhoven, The Netherlands  
Mroziński, J., Wrocław, Poland  
Novák, Cs., Budapest, Hungary  
Pacewska, B., Warsaw, Poland  
Piekarski, H., Łódź, Poland  
Pokrovsky, V. A., Kyiv, Ukraine  
Poulis, J. A., Eindhoven, The Netherlands  
Robens, E., Mainz, Germany  
Staszczuk, P., Lublin, Poland  
Staudt, R., Leipzig, Germany  
Stoch, L., Cracow, Poland  
Tertykh, V. A., Kyiv, Ukraine  
Vishnevetskaya, V. V., Kyiv, Ukraine  
Żogał, O., Wrocław, Poland