

## Preface

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The present issue of Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry contains refereed papers that were presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> European Symposium of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, ESTAC 9. This conference was held in Cracow, historical capital of Poland, from the August 28 to 31, 2006. ESTAC is a symposium series which takes place every four years. Polish Society of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (PTKAT) together with Faculty of Material Science and Ceramics of AGH University of Science and Technology were entrusted with organizing the ninth symposium in Cracow. This was very honourable task for Polish thermal analysis and calorimetry community to organize such internationally recognized conference.

Above 300 participants from all over the world contributed to the conference program with a great success. In the program 350 papers (among them 3 plenary lectures and 100 oral speeches) were presented in six different sections and two workshops. The Organizing Committee was happy to welcome a large number of Ph.D. students and other young researchers who contributed interesting work.

The topics discussed during the meeting covered a broad range of issues, from the fundamental to the applied problems. The communications presented during the conference provided valuable insight into new applications of thermal and calorimetric methods to the different science disciplines. Very nice events took place during the ESTAC 9: GEFTA together with NETZSCH rewarded Prof. Francis Stoessel from Switzerland with the main award and Dr. Agnieszka Walków-Dziewulska from Poland with the award for the young scientist and British Thermal Methods group rewarded Dr. Michael A. A. O'Neill with Cyril Keatch award for best lecturer. Last but not least, we have to mention that it was a privilege for us that the first award of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry was presented to Prof. Barbara Pacewska for her outstanding activity devoted to the present success of the Journal.

At the ESTAC meetings there is always an instrument exhibition of a considerable size. The most important instrument manufacturers of the world were present at this exhibition and in addition they provided funding to ESTAC through financing some of the essential needs of the conference. We especially sincerely thank the following conference sponsors for their support: TA Instruments (Gold Sponsor) and Mettler-Toledo (Silver Sponsor).

The weather was not particularly friendly to the participants, nevertheless, we hope that everyone was able to appreciate the beauty of Cracow and to find time to enjoy it.

We would like to thank the various people who have provided a tremendous amount of help for the organization of the conference, in particular chairmen of all sessions. We are also thankful to the AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow which hosted our conference in beautiful rooms. Above all, we thank all the authors and reviewers for their valuable contribution to this special JTAC issue. We express our gratitude to the editorial office of Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry for providing the opportunity to publish these papers.

The organization of the 10<sup>th</sup> ESTAC meeting in 2010 will be in the hands of Dr. Wim de Klerk, who is scheduled to be the Conference Chairman and the host of the meeting in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

### Guest Editors



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