

## *Preface*

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This Special Chapter of the *Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry* contains a selection of papers presented at the 31<sup>st</sup> International Vacuum Microbalance Techniques Conference held at Izmir Institute of Technology during September 12–14, 2007.

Vacuum Microbalance conferences cover all aspects of mass and force determination under vacuum and controlled atmosphere and related applications in thermogravimetry, measurement of adsorption, magnetic and surface properties as well as reaction engineering. Microbalance scientists, manufacturers and users meet in these conferences to exchange ideas and disseminate information on new developments.

Since the first conferences in the United States, there were 30 International Vacuum Microbalance Techniques Conferences in USA, Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Morocco, Tunisia, Poland and Ukraine and now in Turkey. The proceedings of those conferences were published either in series of books or as special issues of journals, since several years in the *Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry*. The inter-disciplinary nature of advances leads to the broadening of techniques applied in scientific investigations. Thus, the papers in this Special Chapter cover vacuum microbalance techniques as well as related ones.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Conference was organised by the Department of Chemical Engineering within the Engineering Faculty at the Izmir Institute of Technology. The Izmir Institute of Technology, is a state institution established in 1992 and is one of the three universities of Izmir. 388 Academics are teaching there. It is situated at a large technology development zone at Urla, about 45 km outside of the town.

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