

Preface

Maria Rosaria Tiné

Published online: 18 September 2009
© Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, Hungary 2009

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce this special chapter of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry based on the papers presented at the XXX Italian National Conference of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis, AICAT 2008. The Conference follows the tradition of the previous meetings yearly organized by the Italian Association of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis (AICAT) and by the Interdivisional Group of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis (GICAT) of the Italian Chemical Society (SCI).

AICAT 2008 was held in Pisa from the 9th to the 12th of December, 2008. Pisa, famous for its Leaning Tower, is a city of deep cultural traditions, where an ancient and famous university as well as prestigious research centers are located. Its atmosphere, permeated by the wide and varied culture derived from the exchange of knowledge and experience of scholars operating in the most diverse fields, offered a propitious surrounding to the meeting. AICAT 2008 attracted about 100 participants, and over 120 papers and posters covering different topics were presented. A session of the Conference was devoted to the memory of prof. Sergio Cabani in occasion of the 10th anniversary of his passing. Prof. Cabani was one of the AICAT founders and greatly contributed to the development of research in the field of Thermodynamics and Calorimetry, in Pisa as well as nationally and internationally.

During the Conference, the third edition of the AICAT-SETARAM award, which recognizes an internationally famous scientist who has distinguished himself/herself for

the research in the field of Calorimetry, was assigned to prof. Jean-Pierre Grolier from the University of Clermont Ferrand (France). Moreover, the 13th edition of AICAT-LUCCI prize, which rewards young and deserving researchers for their works in the field of Calorimetry, was assigned to Dr. Celia Duce from the University of Pisa. The organizers, AICAT and GICAT warmly thank SETARAM and the Lucci Family for sponsoring the two prizes.

In organizing AICAT 2008 we chose to dedicate special attention to those fields in which calorimetric methods are used in conjunction with other experimental techniques and that therefore represent an example of multidisciplinary approach to research. In particular, the program contained sessions devoted to the use of calorimetric methods for studies in the fields of:

- Solutions, Mixtures and Chemical Thermodynamics
- Food, Pharmaceuticals, Proteins and Biological Macromolecules
- Polymers and Biomaterials
- Inorganic Materials, Ceramics and Metals
- Environmental and Safety
- Cultural Heritage
- Catalysis
- New Instruments and Methods

I hope that the papers of this special chapter can provide an interesting overview of the state of the art in Italian Calorimetry and a useful working tool for all researchers in the field. I am very grateful to prof. Judit Simon, Editor-in-Chief of JTAC, and to her staff for their kind support in bringing out this compilation. My special thanks to all the authors for their high standard papers and to the referees for their great work in the review process.

I also want to thank the organizing and scientific committee of AICAT 2008 and all those who helped us to

M. R. Tiné (✉)
University of Pisa, Lungarno Pacinotti, 43, 56126 Pisa, Italy
e-mail: mrt@dcci.unipi.it

organize the Conference. The financial support of University of Pisa, AICAT, GICAT, the Division of Physical Chemistry of SCI, the National Interuniversity Consortium for Materials Science and Technology (INSTM) is acknowledged. I also thank SETARAM, TA Instruments, and Mettler Toledo

for their financial contribution and technical presentation of their instruments.

I hope that all readers will enjoy the fascinating combination of scientific tradition and innovation contained in these papers.