

## Preface

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It was during the 9th Mediterranean Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis (MEDICTA 2009) held at Marseille, France in June 2009 that the University of Porto, Portugal was chosen as the venue of the next meeting, the MEDICTA 2011 that was held on June, 24th–27th, 2011.

The MEDICTA Conferences are held on a 2 years basis and started in 1993 in Corte (Corsica, France), followed by the conferences in Chia de Laguna (Sardinia, Italy, 1995), Palma de Maiorca (Spain, 1997), Patras (Greece, 1999), Santiago de Compostela (Spain, 2001), Porto (Portugal, 2003), Thessaloniki (Greece, 2005), Palermo (Italy, 2007), Marseille (France, 2009) and Porto again, in 2011. The fact that MEDICTA conferences are steadily running for 18 years, at regular intervals of 2 years, shows the high scientific importance of these topics, both on basic aspects of Science and on its applications on other fields of Science, such as energy, engineering, biology, physics, environment, materials, etc.

This chapter of Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry contains some of the lectures and communications presented at the MEDICTA 2011, the 10th Mediterranean Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis, which took place in the premises of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Faculty of Science, University of Porto, integrated in the celebrations of the 100 years of the University of Porto. The conference was held under the auspices of Association Française de Calorimétrie et d'Analyse Thermique (AFCAT, France), Associazione Italiana de Calorimetria y Análisi Termica (AICAT, Italy),

Gruppo Interdivisionale di Calorimetria y Análisi Térmica of Società Chimica Italiana (GICAT, Italy), Grupo Especializado de Calorimetria e Análisis Térmico (GECAT, Spain), Hellenic Society of Thermal Analysis (HSTA, Greece) and Grupo de Calorimetria e Termoquímica do Porto (CATPOR, Portugal), and organised by the Molecular Energetics Research Group of the Chemistry Research Centre of University of Porto (CIQ-UP). The Conference was attended by 135 participants from 20 countries, from four continents, as only Australia was not represented.

The scientific program of this 10th Mediterranean Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis comprised 7 Plenary Lectures and 8 Key Lectures delivered by well-known experts, 35 Oral Communications and 92 Posters. These communications were signed by an astonishing number of 388 authors. The program of this Conference was organized in 9 sections treating selected fundamental and applied topics of Experimental and Computational Thermochemistry, Solution and Chemical Thermodynamics, Food, Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences, Biological Macromolecules, Organic and Inorganic Materials, Nanomaterials, Energy and Related Applications, Environment, Instrumentation and New Methods.

During the conference, the 6th edition of the AICAT–SETARAM award, which recognizes an internationally famous scientist who has distinguished himself/herself for research in the field of Calorimetry, was assigned to Prof. Attilio Cesàro from the University of Trieste, Italy, for his outstanding theoretical and experimental studies on structure–activity of carbohydrates, personal engagement in sustaining and developing applications of Calorimetry, Thermal Analysis and Chemical Thermodynamics, and for valuable contribution in developing synergistic cooperation between various research groups all over the world.

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M. A. V. Ribeiro da Silva—Chairman of MEDICTA 2011.

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The high scientific level of all contributions has been underlined by all the participants. In addition, both the relative small size of the conference with active participation of well-known scientists of the field, young scientists and graduate students, together with the charm and the character of the city of Porto, contributed to create a very friendly atmosphere which resulted in many scientific discussions and contacts among the participants.

The organization of this Conference would not have been possible without the sponsorship of the rectorate of the University of Porto, of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Faculty of Science of Porto and of the Chemical Research Centre of the University of Porto (CIQ-UP), to which we convey our thanks.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who participated in the Conference in spite of the economical situation of Europe with its high reflex on the research groups of the different countries, the authors for the

excellent standard of the papers with the careful preparation of their presentations and manuscripts, and the referees who willingly gave their time to produce objective criticisms and helpful suggestions during the peer-reviewing process.

Last but not the list, my deepest thanks go to all my co-workers and students, the named and the anonymous who, from the first day of the organization of this conference, got involved in the work. The organization of a scientific meeting is only possible through common ideals and good team work, and so I am happy to have shared the enthusiasm, the dedication and the hard work of all my collaborators. All of us enjoyed the wonderful days of the conference in which we could bring together, in the beautiful city of Porto, so many participants from so many countries, discussing the latest advances of calorimetry, thermal analysis and thermodynamics and deepening the friendship among all of them.

## Acknowledgements

The Guest Editor is very grateful to the following scientists for their critical and valuable reviews which have significantly contributed to the quality of the papers in this Special Chapter.

Acree, W. E., USA  
Bastos, M., Portugal  
Brown, S., USA  
Budrugaec, P., Romania  
Casella, A. R., Brazil  
Chrissafis, K., Greece  
Corma, A., Spain  
Flandorfer, H., Austria  
Higashi, Y., Japan  
Judovits, L., USA  
Kenny, J. M., Italy  
Lalia-Kantouri, M., Greece  
Liska, M., Slovakia  
Menczel, J., USA  
Minaie, B., USA  
Nair, B. N., India  
Navarro, J. U., Spain  
Pacewska, B., Poland

Petrovic, S., Serbia  
Pérez-Maqueda, L. A., Spain  
Qiu, J., China  
Riga, A., USA  
Roduit, B., France  
Rotaru, A., Romania  
Salgado, J., Spain  
Segal, E., Romania  
Siracusa, V., Italy  
Stoch, L., Poland  
Sun, L.-X., China  
Tan, Z. C., China  
Tiné, M. R., Italy  
Vecchio, S., Italy  
Waclawska, I., Poland  
Wang, Q., China  
Wojakowska, A., Poland  
Zhai, Y., China