

Introduction to the Special Section on the 2009 Iberian Meeting on Ionic Liquids (IMIL)

The period between the late 1990s and the beginning of this decade saw the burgeoning worldwide interest in research on ionic liquids that resulted in the establishment of a number of research groups in Portugal and Spain who have enthusiastically embraced this field. As a consequence, there have been major advances resulting in many important publications, and that activity prompted the suggestion for a specific forum in the Iberian Peninsula for meetings and discussion on ionic liquids.

The 2009 Iberian Meeting on Ionic Liquids (IMIL), which was held at the University of Aveiro, Portugal, June 15–16, 2009, aimed to create a stimulating environment for scientific interaction, networking, sharing ideas, and promoting discussion and collaboration among ionic liquids research groups. Subject areas that were covered ranged from the thermophysical properties of ionic liquids to structure and phase equilibria to diverse applications, including biological impact. The meeting brought together 100 participants from more than 20 academic institutions and research laboratories from 10 countries of Europe and the Americas. The diversity of the participants and the broad dissemination of their work through publication in the *Journal of Chemical and Engineering Data* constitute a clear message that this series of meetings will not be a closed regional forum but instead will be open to the world, with scientific interactions extending far beyond the Iberian Peninsula.

In this special section of the *Journal of Chemical and Engineering Data* devoted to the 2009 IMIL, the reader will find contributions on p , V , T determinations for pure ionic liquids that highlight their anomalous thermal behavior, the large effect with mixtures involving water, interfacial properties and contact angles, viscosity, solubility phenomena (including ternary systems), extractions using ionic liquids, aqueous solution behavior of ionic liquids (including calorimetric studies), synthesis and properties of protic (Brønsted) ionic liquids, and thermal properties of IoNanofluids.

The 2009 IMIL was organized by the Path Laboratory of the Centre for Research in Ceramics and Composite Materials (CICECO) at the University of Aveiro with assistance from the Institute of Chemical and Biological Technology (ITQB) of the New University of Lisbon and the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto. The 2011 IMIL, which will take place at Santiago de Compostela, Spain, will be jointly organized by the University of Coruña and the University of Santiago, and the 2013 IMIL will be organized by ITQB in Oeiras, Portugal. We anticipate that these meetings will continue to be a forum for open discussion within the growing community of researchers on ionic liquids and become a focal point in connecting European and North and Latin American people, as has been an Iberian tradition for centuries.

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