

## Editorial

### Proceedings from the Surface Science symposium—International conference on Surfaces, Coatings and Nanostructured Materials 2007 (NanoSMat)

Ammer N. K. Jadoon

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The NanoSMat is a scientific venue organised by the Society of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (SNN). The society is presided over by the Nobel Laureate and one of the founding fathers of modern nanoscience, Prof. Sir Harry Kroto.

The primary aim of the conference is to present the latest technical developments within the conference scope. Additionally, to foster the interaction and exchange of ideas between researchers from across the globe.

NanoSMat 2007 was held in the picturesque region of Algarve, Portugal, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Almost 400 delegates from 25 countries attended. Plenary key note lectures were given by Sir Harry Kroto, Prof. Jeff De Hosson and Prof. Stan Veprek. In addition, there were 42 invited talks covering the 12 conference topics (symposiums) given below:

- Ultra nanocrystalline diamond and other nano-carbons
- Nanocatalysis
- Nanomedicine
- Nanofabrication and nanocharacterisation
- Nanoporous semiconductors
- Nanocomposite films and coatings
- Developments in nanomanufacturing
- Nanoparticles for biomedical applications
- Surface Engineering cutting tools at the Nanoscale
- Carbon nanotubes

- Surface Science: from bulk to nanoscale
- Nanotechnology approaches, Nanomaterials and Thin Films for Energy Technologies

The Surface Science symposium received 80 abstracts, from which 35 orals and 40 posters were selected. This special issue presents 18 manuscripts that were accepted for publication.

Surface Science is a broad and important subject area that affects our everyday lives, hence the academic and commercial interest. Simply put, Surface Science looks into understanding the phenomena occurring on surfaces, spanning the disciplines of Physics, Chemistry and Materials Science. A major area of interest has been to improve and tailor the surface properties and performance, such as wear resistant coatings. The interest in this subject area is heavily reflected in this special issue of the symposium proceedings.

I would like to thank the editors-in-chief of this journal, Prof's. Barry Carter and Rees Rawlings, and the editor Prof. Wayne Kaplan for their kind and much appreciated co-operation. A special thanks is also due to Kate Costello and other team members from the publication side, for the hard work that goes into making this journal a reality.

Finally, to my co-editors of this special issue, Dr's. Mike Reece, Richard Todd and Nasar Ali—thank you for your hard work and efforts.

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A. N. K. Jadoon (✉)  
The Technology Centre, BP, Whitchurch Hill,  
Berkshire RG8-7QR, UK  
e-mail: ammer.jadoon@bp.com