

## Guest Editors' Editorial: HTC-2009

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The first High Temperature Capillarity Conference, abbreviated as HTC, was held at Smolenice in Slovakia in the spring of 1994. The success of that conference and the enthusiasm of participants led to the development and the establishment of the scientific tradition of HTC Conferences, regularly taking place around the globe. Hence, the next HTC Conferences took place in Krakow (Poland, summer 1997), in Kurashiki (Japan, fall 2000), in San Remo (Italy, spring 2004), in Alicante (Spain, spring 2007), and in Athens (Greece, spring 2009).

Since 1994, the HTC Conferences have experienced an increasing number of participants from all over the world working in molten metals, alloys and glasses. HTC Conferences were soon recognized as a significant international

scientific forum for exchanging ideas and presenting the most recent results in the area of surfaces and interfaces, of wetting and of capillarity in materials and materials processing at elevated temperatures. These problems are tackled by both experimental and theoretical studies. During the past 15 years, the HTC Conferences have enriched our knowledge in capillarity and wetting, cultivated novel ideas, and proposed new equipment and different approaches for studying and analyzing interfacial phenomena. Moreover, the HTC Conferences act as a link that facilitates interaction between scientists and laboratories, which are active in this field of science.

The HTC-2009, held in Athens, gathered 143 participants from 20 different countries from all over the world, who attentively attended 61 oral presentations and 72 poster presentations, held in a single-venue format of 11 sessions and 2 poster sessions and lasted for 4 consecutive days (6–9 May 2009). With respect to the previous HTC Conferences, the HTC-2009 established separate sessions exclusively dedicated to capillarity in crystal growth. The need for this had already been identified during the previous HTC Conferences. Accordingly, in HTC-2009, there were 43 presentations addressing surfaces and interfaces issues, 37 presentations were dedicated to wetting phenomena, 33 presentations discussed materials processing issues, and 19 presentations focused on capillarity in crystal growth.

This conference is actually integrated with this Special Issue of the Journal of Materials Science, which kindly was offered to the HTC-2009 by JMS Editor-in-Chief C.B.Carter. The issue contains 39 papers that have been accepted for publication after a careful peer review process.

Reaching the end of this effort, started in Alicante in 2007, the Guest Editors wish to thank all people who, with

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their dedicated efforts, contributed to make a success of the Conference, in particular Prof.Simeon Agathopoulos, the coordinating editor W. Kaplan, the Reviewers, who

comprehensively evaluated the papers, and all the Participants who joined this scientific event in Athens.

The next HTC Conference will be held in Israel in 2012.