

Preface

This is yet another special issue of JTAC devoted to the presentation of selected papers drawn from results and discussions presented during an International Conference to the wider scientific community. The contents of this specific issue were delivered at the 7th Mediterranean Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis (MEDICTA 2005), held in Thessaloniki, Greece July 2–6, 2005.

The MEDICTA conferences were established in 1993, the first one taking place in Corte, Corsica and were held successively thereof on a biennial basis, moving around the Mediterranean and neighbouring countries from Cagliari (Italy, 1995), Palma de Mallorca (Spain 1997), Rio (near Patras, Greece 1999), Santiago de Compostela (Spain 2001) and Porto (Portugal 2003). The organization of this series of Conferences is greatly depending on the collaboration of the Mediterranean Thermal Analysis Societies, namely Associazione Italiana de Calorimetria e Analisi Termica (AICAT), Grupos de Calorimetria e Analise Termica do Porto (CATPOR), Grupo Especializado de Calorimetria y Analisis Termico (GECAT), Grupo Interdivisionale di Calorimetria e Analisis Termica (GICAT), Hellenic Society of Thermal Analysis (HSTA) and Israeli Group for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (IGTAC). Of course, local support is always in need and welcome and in the latest Conference it was provided by the Department of Chemistry of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.), through its Research Committee and the Association of the Greek Chemists (A.G.C.).

In common with analogous meetings, the MEDICTA conferences aim at the coverage of the most interesting if not all of the current advances in the thermal processes occurring in materials related to the widest possible spectrum of everyday life aspects as well as of the most recent advances in applications of thermal analysis. The topics covered in the 7th MEDICTA include Polymer Science and Materials, Food, Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences, Cultural Heritage, Inorganic Chemistry and Earth Sciences, Instrumentation and Miscellaneous, mainly environmental topics. Within these rather wide boundaries, scientists from different areas of research i.e. Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Pharmacy and Medicine could and have participated in both the study, elucidation, interpretation and prediction of the thermal behaviour of compounds of their interest. Not less than 162 participants were present in the Thessaloniki last July, coming mainly from the Mediterranean and neighbouring countries. The interest in these conferences is ever-growing and this is reflected in the fact that many scientists attended from Central and Northern Europe as well as from the USA. The conference book of Abstracts contained 195 entries including 8 plenary and 7 key lectures, and 33 accepted oral and 144 poster presentations, furthermore 2 workshops devoted to Applied Thermodynamics and Geosciences (Soils, Clays and Ceramics) were organized during the conference.

As the organizer of MEDICTA2005 conference and Guest Editor of this Special Issue, I would like to thank to all those who participated in the conference and especially to the authors for the careful preparation of their presentations and manuscripts. Many thanks are also due to the Editor-in-Chief of the journal JTAC, Professor Judith Simon for her kindness and valuable advices and the Assistant to Editor-in-Chief, Mrs. Klara Kiss for her helpfulness and the collection of the submitted papers. The contribution of all individuals to the success of the conference in both the scientific and social part is gratefully acknowledged. I hope that all will remember this conference with good memories.

Due to the page limitation we can not include all peer reviewed and accepted papers in this Special Issue, but they will be published under the 'OnlineFirst' section of the electronic Journal and later scheduled for print in Regular issues, with a footnote indicating that they were originally presented at the MEDICTA'05 conference.



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