

Preface

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This issue of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry is a special issue devoted to selected papers presented at the 38th Annual Meeting of the North American Thermal Analysis Society held in Philadelphia, PA, August 15–18, 2010. We certainly hope that the reader will find a number of interesting articles in this issue. You can see the diversity of technical applications of thermal analysis when you take a look at the sessions held at this meeting: Advances in Instrumentations and Methods; Biomaterials & Biocalorimetry; Food Science; Honorary Session for Roger Blaine; Inorganic and Ceramic Materials; Kinetics; Localized Thermal Analysis; Nanocarbon; Pharmaceuticals; Rheology; Thermal Conductivity; Thermal Standards and Reference Materials, ASTM International Dudley Medal Award Session; Thermogravimetry and Evolved Gas Analysis, Honoring Jen Chiu; Thermoplastics, Honoring Michael Jaffe; Thermosets and Composites; General Session; Poster Session; and Student Poster Session.

Despite of the difficult economic times, more than 230 oral and poster presentations were held. As usual, NATAS honored some of its members with awards and honors. The winner of the Mettler-Toledo Award for Outstanding Achievement was Joe Menczel, the NATAS Outstanding Service Award went to Eric Schoch. Don Burlett, who currently serves as the President of ICTAC, became an elected NATAS Fellow.

Like at any other Annual NATAS Meeting, a successful thermal analysis short course was organized by David Jones, who was responsible for the NATAS short courses for several years. This was his last year in this position, and NATAS would like to thank him for devoting a lot of energy to organizing the short courses. From now on, Larry Judovits will take over this responsibility. We are convinced he will bring in new ideas how to teach thermal analysis to chemists and material scientists and will do an outstanding job.

We would like to thank all those people who gave freely their time to organize a successful annual meeting. NATAS is an all-volunteer society with staff management support being provided by Lois Hall at ICSET/Western Kentucky University. The Society simply could not operate without the selfless devotion of its many volunteers led in 2010 by Tom Ramotowski. Special thanks to the 2010 Conference Committee, to Conference Chair Andrew McGhie, Technical Program Chair, Larry Judovits and the Proceedings Editor Eric Schoch.

Finally, we need to mention that the NATAS Conference always includes a vendor exhibition. Our exhibitors and vendors serve a vital purpose in the thermal analysis enterprise, and we would like to thank all of them for supporting NATAS and the Annual Meetings.

Acknowledgements

The Guest Editors are 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.

Blaine, R., USA	Malow, M., Germany
Budrugaac, P. Romania	Ozao, R., Japan
Cao, Y., USA	Pan, W. P., USA
Cervantes, J., Spain	Pinal, R., USA
Chang, R. R., China	Purkait, M. K., India
Charlsley, E., UK	Relkin, P., France
Cheng, S.-Y., Taiwan	Riga, A., USA
Chrissafis, K., Greece	Schartel, B., Germany
De Klerk, W., The Netherlands	Schick, C., USA
Egbuchunam, T. O. Nigeria	Schiraldi, A., Italy
Gupta, J. P., India	Shu, C.-M., Taiwan
Hatakeyama, T., Japan	Slade, L., USA
Hwang, A., USA	Staiger, M., USA
Jianjun, Z., China	Tseng, J. M., China
Lyon, R. E., USA	Verma, R. K., India
Madarász, J., Hungary	Volker, J., USA