

Preface

The 23rd NATAS Conference hosted 142 paper and 25 poster presentations. A portion of these papers were peer reviewed and are presented in this special volume. These papers were prepared for publication by careful refereeing, revision and editing.

The conference was of exceptional high quality and registration increased (336 registrants). The short course program headed by Wei-Ping Pan was very successful with Pat Gallagher's Overview, Alan Riga on Quality Management and ISO 9000, Bernie Wunderlich on DSC of Polymers and Jeanne Taborsky on Thermal Analysis of Drugs and Packaging.

The technical program was highlighted with five plenary lectures: P. Gallagher, *Evolution of TA*, M. Reading, *Applications of Dynamic/Modulated DSC*, A.W. Scaroni, *TA of Coal*, A. Riga, *Environmental Research and Testing by TA* and V.C. Ramachandran, *TA in Construction Materials*. Additional sessions were on TA techniques, Inorganic Materials, Thermoset and Thermoplastic Polymers, TA of Energy Related Materials, New Instrumentation and Software and Characterization of Composites with Polymer Matrices.

The annual conference was organized by Don Burlett and his team included: Stephen Cheng (VC Conference), Michael Day (Program), Jimmie Oxley (VC Program), John Enns (Proceedings/Treasurer), Stewart Hunt (Registration), Bob Hassel (Publicity), Marilyn Hauck (Meeting Consultant), many session chairpersons, student volunteers and David Cooney (Local Arrangements).

Professor Slade Warne, Australia, was honored with the Mettler Award for his outstanding TA research in coal assessment and characterization of inorganics. The NATAS outstanding service award was presented to Lydia Boyter, long-time membership secretary. Professor Ian Harrison, Penn State, and Dr. Piero Ronca, GE Canada were selected as NATAS Fellows. Dr. Glenn Rupard, Ohio State University, was the Perkin-Elmer Student Award recipient.

Alan T. Riga
Gerald H. Patterson