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## Preface

It is a great pleasure for us, as Editors, to be associated with the preparation of this Special Issue of Thermochemica Acta in honour of the 65th birthday of our friend and colleague Patrick Gallagher, the current Dow Professor for Materials Chemistry and Engineering at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Although this issue will appear quite some time after this important anniversary (March 17, 1996), we can use as an excuse the fact that Pat does not look his age and caught many of us by surprise! His Curriculum Vitae, given in this issue, outlines his distinguished scientific career in industry and in academia, but cannot adequately present Pat the person.

He and his wife, Marianne, have played a major role in building a close international 'family' of thermal analysts and, in the many offices Pat has held, including President of NATAS 1975 and ICTAC 1982–85, he has trained, guided, inspired, and sometimes coaxed, members of this family, while he has watched their achievements with pride. No conference on thermal analysis is really complete without the presence of the Gallaghers. From the clarity and elegance of formal plenary lectures, the enthusiasm of Pat the photographer on excursions, through to the good humour at social functions, their presence is felt and highly valued.

Pat has been the recipient of numerous international awards, but even more can be learnt about him by talking to any of his current or past research students.

They all are infected by the spontaneous enthusiasm and drive of their mentor and speak of him with tremendous respect and affection. The same respect and affection is felt by those of us privileged to have been his colleagues and friends. This was very apparent when invitations to contribute to this Special Issue were sent out. The response was enthusiastic, as shown by the 30 papers collected here, but many of those invited, who, for a variety of reasons, were not able to contribute at this time, asked that their regrets be conveyed to Pat, together with their best wishes on this memorable occasion.

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