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Preface

The 28th International Conference on Metallurgical Coatings and Thin Films, sponsored by the Advanced Surface Engineering Division of the AVS Science and Technology Society, was held April 30–May 4, 2001 in San Diego, California. An outstanding technical program was presented consisting of 60 technical sessions containing more than 700 oral or poster presentations. More than 80 internationally recognized experts presented invited lectures in the various symposia. The number of delegates registered was 750, and to this number can be added about 170 representatives from the companies exhibiting at the Conference.

The Plenary presentation was given by Prof. Sir Harold Kroto, and was entitled ‘Molecular Architecture in the 21st Century’. These Proceedings contain 203 out of the 310 manuscripts submitted that were peer-reviewed by at least two expert referees and accepted on the basis of technical merit and timeliness of submission. As has been the practice since 1987, the accepted papers are also being published in special issues of the archival journals *Surface and Coatings Technology* or *Thin Solid Films*. Papers from Symposium A (Coatings for Use at High Temperatures), Symposium B (Hard Coatings and Vapor Deposition Technologies), Symposium E (Tribological Coatings/Surface Modifications), Symposium G (Applications, Manufacturing and Equipment), Symposium T1 (The Science and Technology of Thermal Spray Coatings), and Symposium T2 (Principles of Pulsed Plasmas) are being published in *Surface and Coatings Technology*. Papers from Symposium C (Optical Thin Films), Symposium D (Diamond and Related Materials), Symposium F (Coating and Thin Film Characterization), and Symposium H (New Horizons in Coatings and Thin Films) are being published in *Thin Solid Films*.

The organization of a conference and assembly of a Proceedings of this size and magnitude require the ded-

icated effort of many people, most of whom are volunteers. The General Chair this year was Prof. Allan Matthews who was responsible for co-ordinating all activities related to the conference. The Executive and Program Committees for ICMCTF2001 are named in the following pages, and their efforts are gratefully acknowledged. In addition, the generous support of the companies exhibiting at the conference, also listed separately, is recognized as are the efforts of Bob Finnegan in managing the exhibition.

Specifically relating to the Proceedings, the Editors would like to thank Bruce D. Sartwell for help in the co-ordination of the editorial activities and in providing his very useful advice, based on his experience as a past ICMCTF Proceedings Editor. Special thanks also go to Dr Gregory J. Exarhos, the Program Chair, and all the Symposia Chairs for assisting in the identification of qualified referees. We would also like to acknowledge the hundreds of referees themselves for their prompt submission of quality reviews.

Finally, on behalf of the entire conference, we would like to express our appreciation to Phyllis Greene, Conference Manager, for handling local arrangements and ensuring that the conference ran smoothly in San Diego, to Mary Gray, Conference Administrator, for processing the abstracts and the pre-registration, and to Carol Hopkins for logging in the manuscripts and distributing them to referees.

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The Guest Editors:

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