

Preface

The 29th 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 22–26, 2002 in San Diego, California. An outstanding technical program was presented consisting of 55 technical sessions containing more than 650 oral or poster presentations. More than 75 internationally recognized experts presented invited lectures in the various symposia. The number of delegates registered was 685, and to this number can be added about 160 representatives from the companies exhibiting at the conference.

An outstanding plenary session opened the conference and included a presentation by Professor Hans Oechsner entitled, 'Thin Films on an Atomic Scale'. There was also a special session on 'Surface Engineering: Needs and Research Opportunities' and a Quo Vadimus Forum on 'Surface Engineering Challenges for the Next Decade'.

These Proceedings contain 207 papers 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 & 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) and Topical Session TS (Principles of Pulsed Plasmas) are being published in *Surface & Coatings Technology*. Papers from Symposium C (Optical Thin Films), Symposium D (Diamond and Related Materials), Symposium F (Coating and Thin Film Characterization), and Sympo-

sium 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 dedicated effort of many people, most of whom are volunteers. The General Chair this year was Dr. Gregory J. Exarhos who was responsible for coordinating all activities related to the conference. The Executive and Program Committees for ICMCTF2002 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 related to the Proceedings, the Editors would like to thank Dr. Alan F. Stewart, the Program Chair, and all of the Symposia Chairs for assisting in the identification of qualified referees. We would also like to acknowledge the hundreds of referees themselves for submitting quality reviews in a timely manner.

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-registrations, and to Carol Hopkins and Jennifer Turner of Geo-Centers, Inc. for logging in the manuscripts and distributing them to referees.

The Guest Editors:
Bruce D. Sartwell
Suzanne Rohde
Wolfgang Ensinger
Kathryn J. Wahl
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