

## Preface

The 33rd International Conference on Metallurgical Coatings and Thin Films (ICMCTF) sponsored by the Advanced Surface Engineering Division of the American Vacuum Society (AVS) was held from May 1 to May 5, 2006 in San Diego, California. An outstanding technical program was presented consisting of 61 technical sessions containing 446 oral and 183 poster presentations. 81 internationally recognized experts presented invited lectures in the various symposia. More than 700 delegates registered, along with a further 120 representatives of the companies, which exhibited at the Conference. The Conference was opened on Monday morning with a Plenary Lecture by **Prof. Stan Veprek** from the Technical University of Munich, Germany entitled “**Nano-sized and nano-structured inorganic materials and thin films, why and when**”.

The accepted manuscripts are 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 technology), Symposium E (Tribology and mechanical behavior of coatings and thin films), Symposium G (Applications, manufacturing and equipment), Topical Session TS-1 (Coatings and automotive applications), Topical Session TS-2 (Coatings for aerospace applications) and Topical Session TS-3 (Coatings for fuel cells) are being published in *Surface and Coatings Technology*. Papers from Symposium C (Optical thin films), Symposium D (Carbon and nitride materials), Symposium F (Advanced materials characterization), and Symposium H (New horizons in coatings and thin films) are being published in *Thin Solid Films*. 194 papers were peer reviewed by at least two expert referees and accepted on the basis of technical merit and timeliness of submission.

The organization of a conference and assembly of Proceedings volumes of this magnitude require the dedicated effort of many people, most of whom are volunteers. The **General Chairman** this year was **Professor Christian Mitterer** from the University of Leoben, Department of Physical Metallurgy and Materials Testing, Leoben, Austria, who was responsible for coordinating all activities related to the Conference. The Executive and Program Committee Members for the 2006 ICMCTF are named in the following pages, and their efforts are gratefully acknowledged. In addition, the generous support of the 47 companies exhibiting at the Conference, also listed separately, is recognized, as are the effort of Bob Finnegan from the American Institute of Physics, Melville, NY, in managing the exhibition.

The Editors would like to offer special thanks to the **Program Chairman, Dr. Andrey Voevodin** from the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Air Force Research Laboratory, Ohio, and all of the Symposia Chairs for assisting in the organization of symposia and technical sessions. We would also like to acknowledge the hundreds of referees for their timely 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, and to Mary Gray, Conference Administrator, for processing the abstracts, distributing the manuscripts to referees, and processing the pre-registrations.

Proceedings Editors:  
Alan Stewart  
Ali Erdemir  
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