



Preface

ICMCTF 2010

The 37th International Conference on Metallurgical Coatings and Thin Films (ICMCTF) sponsored by the Advanced Surface Engineering Division (ASED) of the American Vacuum Society (AVS) was held from April 26 to April 30, 2010 in San Diego, California.

The technical program consisted of 55 technical sessions in 7 parallel symposia, offering 450 oral and 172 poster presentations. The conference was opened with a Plenary Lecture by Prof. George M. Pharr from the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, The University of Knoxville, Tennessee, USA, entitled "Exploring the strange new world of small-scale deformation with nanoindentation". Invited lectures were given by 76 internationally recognized experts. More than 600 participants registered from 41 countries. The program was completed by 3 focused topical sessions, 3 short courses and an industrial exhibition.

The recipient of the ASED R.F. Bunshah Annual Award and honorary lecture was Prof. Helmut Holleck, from the Institute for Materials Research I, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe, Germany, who is recognized for his pioneering research on thermodynamic constitutive relations and PVD phase maps for the design of complex advanced multicomponent coatings. The ICMCTF Lecture given by Prof. Holleck reviewed 25 years of "Modeling Nanostructured Thin Films". The ASED Annual ICMCTF Graduate Student Award nominees were Mr. Richard Rachbauer from the Montan University Leoben, Austria, Ms. Savi Abey from the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA and Mr. Brandon Howe from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. Because of the exceptional quality of the research presented by the students all three were awarded the highest award.

The electronic submission and handling of manuscripts via the Elsevier Editorial System (EES), including the selection of reviewers and evaluation of manuscripts were identical to the procedures applied to manuscripts submitted as regular contributions for publication in international scientific journals. Consequently, the scientific quality of ICMCTF manuscripts is equivalent to that of regular articles. As has been practiced since 1987, the accepted manuscripts are published in the archival journals *Surface and Coatings Technology* and *Thin Solid Films*.

The organization of a conference and assembly of proceeding volumes of this magnitude require the dedicated effort of many people, most of whom are volunteers. The General Chair 2010 was held

by Dr. Kathryn Wahl from the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington D.C., USA and the Program Chair was Prof. Steve J. Bull from Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK. The Editors would like to offer thanks to the two Chairs and to all of the Symposia and Session Chairs for assisting in the organization of symposia and technical sessions. We also acknowledge, with thanks, the hundreds of reviewers for their timely submission of quality reports. Last, but perhaps most importantly, we express our thanks to all authors and presenters for their contributions.

A few familiar faces were missed in 2010, including that of Yves Pauleau, longtime contributor to our community, co-editor of *Surface and Coatings Technology* and lead editor of the ICMCTF Proceedings in recent years who passed away in February 2010 – many of us shared fond memories of Yves throughout the week, and Kathy shared a letter written by his family expressing gratitude for the response of his fellow scientists at the opening of the conference.

The 38th International Conference on Metallurgical Coatings and Thin Films (ICMCTF 2011) will be held in San Diego, California, May 2–6, 2011. The ASED committee has appointed Prof. Steve J. Bull, Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK and Dr. Ali Erdemir, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, USA, as General Chairman and Program Chairman, respectively.

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