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## ICMCTF 2016 – Preface



The 43rd 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 April 25 to 29, 2016 in San Diego, California.

The week's technical program consisted of 42 technical sessions, which were organized in eight concurrent technical symposia and six topical symposia. The conference opened with a Plenary Lecture by Dr. Zhong Lin Wang, Hightower Chair in Materials Science and Engineering and Regents Professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., on "Nanogenerators as New Energy Technology and Piezotronics for Smart Systems". The Exhibition Keynote Lecture was presented by Prof. Wolfgang Diehl, Deputy-Director of Fraunhofer Institute in Braunschweig, Germany on "Functional Coatings Produced by Plasma Processes: Technology and Recent Applications."

During the conference week, a well subscribed poster session was attended by a large and appreciative attendee audience. An expansive large two-day interactive industrial exhibition, with more than 60 booths, was held in which companies displayed their most recent developments in vacuum science and plasma-based deposition technologies. In addition to the technical symposia sessions, there were three focused topical sessions, and six specialized short courses offered.

The Honorary Lecture was entitled "Electron Beam Technologies (EB-PVD) for Nanostructured Composites". The ASED Annual ICMCTF Graduate Student Awards were presented to Marlene Mühlbacher (Gold Medal) from the University of Leoben, Leoben, Austria, Nicholas R. Glavin (Silver Medal) from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA, and Yuchen Yang (Bronze Medal) from Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, Hubei, P.R. China.

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. Following the tradition practiced since 1987, the accepted manuscripts are published in two archival journals: *Surface and Coatings Technology* and *Thin Solid Films*. Current ICMCTF proceedings are open-access for one year via the Elsevier journals' web sites.

The organization of this conference and the preparation of proceedings volumes would have been impossible without the tremendous efforts and dedication of many individuals, which include: the General Chair Prof. Suneel Kodambaka, University of California, Los-Angeles, California, U.S.A., and the Program Chair Prof. Christian Mitterer, University of Leoben, Leoben, Austria, who oversaw the organization of the conference and the program; the large team of symposia and session chairs that made possible the realization of an exciting technical program; and the support of hundreds of reviewers with their timely submission of quality reports. We express our sincere thanks to all authors and presenters for their contributions and to all reviewers for their help evaluating these manuscripts. To our sponsors, we acknowledge, appreciate, and thank these companies for their most generous and continuing support.

The 44th International Conference on Metallurgical Coatings and Thin Films (ICMCTF 2017) will be held in San Diego, California, April 24–28, 2017 with Prof. Christian Mitterer, University of Leoben, Leoben, Austria, as the General Chair and Prof. Yip-Wah Chung, Northwestern University of Evanston, Illinois, USA, as the Program Chair.

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