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Preface

ICMCTF 2018 – Preface



The 45th 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 23 to 27, 2018, in San Diego, California.

The week's technical program consisted of 56 technical sessions, which were organized into eight concurrent technical symposia and five topical symposia. The conference opened with a Plenary Lecture by Dr. Gregory Rohrer, Head and W.W. Mullins Professor of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, on "Predictive Synthesis and Characterization of Oxide Films with Metastable Structures." The Exhibition Keynote Lecture was presented by Dr. Nazlim Bagcivan, Director of the Coating Center at Schaeffler AG headquarter in Herzogenaurach, Germany, on "Enabling Mobility for Tomorrow with Surface Technology."

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 seven specialized short courses.

Dr. Allan Matthews, Professor of Surface Engineering and Tribology and Director of the BP-sponsored International Centre for Advanced Materials at the University of Manchester, was the recipient of the 2018 ASED R.F. Bunshah Annual Award; he presented the Honorary Lecture on "A Retrospective View of Plasma-assisted PVD Innovations since the 1960's." He is recognized for his outstanding contributions to surface engineering and coatings tribology. The ASED Annual ICMCTF Graduate Student Awards were presented to Vincent Moraes (Gold Medal) from the CDL-AOS at TU Wien, Austria; Barbara Putz (Silver Medal) from Erich Schmid Institute of Materials Science, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria; and Simone P. Rodrigues (Bronze Medal) from the University of Coimbra, Portugal.

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 as special issues in two archival journals: *Surface and Coatings Technology* and *Thin Solid Films*. These special issues are open-access for one year via the Elsevier journals' web sites and are published online upon acceptance.

The organization of this conference and the preparation of proceedings volumes would have been impossible without the tremendous effort and dedication of many individuals, which include: the General Chair Prof. Yip-Wah Chung, Northwestern University of Evanston, Illinois, USA, and the Program Chair, Dr. Michael Stüber of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe, Germany, 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 46th International Conference on Metallurgical Coatings and Thin Films (ICMCTF 2019) will be held in San Diego, California, May 19–24, 2019 with Dr. Michael Stüber, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany, as the General Chair and, Prof. Chris Muratore, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH, USA, as the Program Chair.

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