
Editorial

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The official release of the *International Journal of Nanotechnology (IJNT)* and its inaugural double-issue has been taking place at the 2003 Fall meeting of the Materials Research Society (MRS) held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, MA, last November. An overwhelming response from the thousands of scientists attending the conference followed. In addition to this remarkable welcome, about 4000 printed copies have been circulating all over the world in academic, industrial and business facilities. In addition to the entirely revised Inderscience website which offers online-submission and full-text searchable databases, it is a great pleasure to announce IJNT is now indexed in SciFinder[®] and INSPEC[®] databases, which will facilitate its access and cross-referencing. IJNT is a journal dedicated to promote both fundamental and applied innovative research in nanotechnology by selecting and inviting experts all over the world and in all fields related to nanotechnology, to bring comprehensive knowledge to a broad readership through high-quality reviews of their own achievements. It is with great honour that the third issue of the first volume of *Int. J. Nanotechnology* is introduced.

IJNT 1(3), 2004 features six contributions in which the controlled self-assembly of innovative nanostructures for high density magnetic storage, the fabrication of smart materials for corrosion protections as well as the soft chemistry of hard materials have been addressed. In addition, the theoretical and experimental investigations of important fundamental issues in materials science such as the electron transport and energy relaxation processes in metallic nanoparticles have been assessed. Finally, a model and simulation study dedicated to the performance optimisation of atomic force microscopes is presented.

We are welcoming several new members of the editorial board from Europe, Asia, and Oceania to genuinely broaden the expertise, coverage, and distribution of the journal. The authors, the members of the editorial board, the referees as well as all the contributors are thoughtfully acknowledged for their time, dedication, consideration and support to *Int. J. Nanotechnology*, and for bringing to our international readership this new and exciting issue. We hope the journal will contribute and facilitate fruitful international and multidisciplinary collaborations between scientists and engineers as well as being revealing and inspiring for new generations of researchers.