## Editorial

## Guest Editor: Michal Besterci

Institute of Materials Research of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice, Slovak Republic E-mail: besterci@imrnov.saske.sk

Biographical notes: After graduating from the Faculty of Engineering, Technical University in Košice in 1961, Professor Besterci started to work at the Institute of Materials Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences, in the area of powder metallurgy; firstly, in powder production and sintering theory, later in quantitative microstructure evaluation and the interpretation of properties of dispersion strengthened systems based on Ag, Cu, Al, and Pt. In 1971 and 1987, M. Besterci received doctoral degrees: Candidate of Sciences and Doctor of Sciences, respectively. In 1992, he was named Associated Professor and in 1997 Professor for Material Engineering at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava. He is an author and co-author of six monographs, four of which were published abroad, and two capitols of monographs. His 520 original scientific works have been published in journals and conference proceedings. Professor Besterci is a member of the Editorial boards of Metallic Materials, Acta Mechanica Slovaca and Powder Metallurgy Progress advances journals. Occasionally, he has been a member of the organising committees of international conferences on powder metallurgy and composites.

Already more than three decades have passed since Taniguchi, in 1974, defined quite a new field – nanomaterials and nanotechnologies. Since that time, the development of nanomaterials and nanotechnologies have been tremendous. Currently this involves research activities in various fields including physics, chemistry, biology and electronics. The basic units of nanomaterials are the nanoparticles with a size of less than 100 nm, and with defined shape, atomic structure, chemical or meta-phase composition. The situation is even more complex in the case of nanocomposites, when both nano-sized matrix and secondary phases are present.

The aim of the current special issue of the *International Journal of Materials & Product Technology* is to disseminate the state-of-the-art review contributions in the fields of preparation, microstructure characterisation and property evaluation of a wide range of nanocomposite materials.

I am very grateful to all authors and reviewers for their contributions and to Dr M.A. Dorgham, the Editor-in-Chief, for his support of this special issue.