
Editorial

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This issue completes the second volume of the *International Journal of Nanotechnology*. New hot topics including engineered functional nanostructures, self-assembled monolayers and scanning probe lithography, nanophototherapy, structural DNA nanotechnology, hybrid nanodevices and biomolecular motors, as well as the aqueous thermodynamic stability of oxide nanoparticles have been addressed by scientists from Japanese, North American, Britain and South Korean institutions. Over a 2-year existence, *Int. J. Nanotechnology* has released 3 special issues and 3 regular issues, 50 articles representing 958 pages of in-depth coverage of many hot topics in nanotechnology by invited researchers from 20 different countries. It has been released at major international conferences in North America, in Africa, in Europe and in Asia.

The successful completion and release of a special issue dedicated to the best of Nanotechnology in a selected country has been achieved. Spain has been the first one of a long series. Its official release took place in Oviedo, Spain during the 2005 Trends in Nanotechnology (TNT) conference, which attracted around 400 scientists. “*Very high interest from the Spanish community and good exposure for Nanotechnology research in our country*”, recalls Pedro Serena, guest editor of that special double-issue. Additional special issues dedicated to *Ukraine and Russia* (V. Pokropivny, National Academy of Science of Ukraine) and to *South Korea* (S.W. Han, Chonbuk National Univ.) are completed and scheduled for 2006. Several others are currently being prepared under the direction of eminent guest editors for *Sweden* (G. Westin, Uppsala Univ.), *China* (E. Wang, Beijing Univ.; S. Yang, Hong Kong Univ. Sci. Tech.; J.G. Hou, Heifei Univ. Sci. Tech.), *Canada* (F. Rosei, Univ. du Quebec), *Australia* (A. Hill, CSIRO; C. Jagadish, Australian National Univ.; P. Majewski, South Australia Univ.), *India* (G.U. Kulkarni, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre), *Singapore* (X.W. Sun, Nanyang Tech. Univ.) and *Africa* (M. Maaza, iThemba Labs; A.C. Beye, Univ. de Dakar). Such special issues are aiming to genuinely identify the most active and representative research themes and researchers involved in Nanotechnology. It will reveal the status and advances of nanotechnology as well as promoting scientists, institutions, laboratories, research networks and funding agencies all over the world. We hope that such original initiative will contribute to develop a better knowledge of nanotechnology initiatives and thus, more active collaborations between researchers in different countries. Official release of these special issues will be carried out in their respective countries at major international *nano* conferences.

The journal has become a major source of information on nanotechnology and some of our goals have thus been clearly achieved so it will continue delivering geographically-balanced high quality articles on important topics related to nanotechnology from both fundamental and applied point of view in 4 issues per year consisting of invited contributions, keeping quality and originality over quantity. In a world where common sense, unity, and compassion seem too often forgotten, my gratitude goes to the authors, the editorial board, the publisher, the conference organizers and all the contributors for their continuous (and growing) support, time and consideration and, it goes without saying, to the scientists of all age, nationality and background for which *Int. J. Nanotechnology* is dedicated.