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## Introduction

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**Biographical notes:** Victor M. Castaño (Mexico City, 1960) received MSc and PhD Degrees from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) and spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research center (New York). He has authored and co-authored over 400 peer-review papers, is member of the Editorial Board of over 10 international journals and has received various awards in Mexico, the USA and Europe. His interests are in the area of materials science, particularly in developing nano-sized materials for a number of uses, including water treatment technologies. The re-use of waste materials is also one of his areas of research. He is full-professor and Director of the Centro de Fisica Aplicada y Tecnologia Avanzada (CFATA) of the UNAM.

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It is my pleasure, as Guest Editor of the present issue of IJMPT to present this selection of articles, from those presented at the Primer Congreso CIMAV Materiales y Ambiental, held at the facilities of the Centro de Investigación en Materiales Avanzados (CIMAV), in the city of Chihuahua, Mexico, 27–28 of October, 2004. As it can be appreciated from the variety of topics, which range from specific mathematical models to case studies in industry and education, the meeting gathered experts from a wide range of areas, aiming to represent the enormous diversity of topics that materials science, processing technology and environmental issues cover and, still, converge to contribute to solve specific problems.

I would like to acknowledge the editorial assistance of Mr. Arturo Silva, who did a superb job, given the broad scope of this publication.