Editorial

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Biographical notes: Michal Besterci, after graduating from the Facu1ty of Engineering, Technical University in Košice in 1961, joined the Institute of Materials Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences, in the area of Powder Metallurgy. In 1971 and 1987, he received his Doctoral Degrees as Candidate of Sciences and Doctor of Sciences, respectively. In 1992, he was named Associate 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 were published in journals and conference proceedings.

Powder metallurgy was used first for the preparation of materials, which could not be prepared by melting. The development since was significant. It can be illustrated on the development accomplished in the automobile industry. The current production quantity and the complexity of the produced parts is the evidence. There are two main directions of the progress in PM. One is the progress in the final quality of produced parts and the other is the development of brand new materials by the application of new phenomenon and production technologies in different fields of industry.

The aim of this special edition of *International Journal of Materials and Product Technology* is to describe the actual state of art in the development of new materials and systems, as well as the recently developed new progressive production technologies in PM.

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