
Editorial

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This issue completes the 2007 edition (4th Volume) of the *International Journal of Nanotechnology* with its new six-issue/year format. During this year, four special issues have been released (Nanotechnology in China, Nanomaterials for Secure Technologies, Nanotechnology in Singapore, and Australia-Brazil Bio-Nanotechnology). In this latest (regular) issue, many hot topics have been addressed such as *optical resonance and magnetic properties of carbon nanotubes*, the *synthesis of inorganic nanotubes*, *nanotechnology in the textile and clothing industry* as well as *in the natural gas industry*, *nanomechanical properties of nacre*, *novel ZnO structures by MOCVD*, *sub-nanometer linearity for metrology applications*, and *the aqueous stabilisation of crystalline metastable nanostructures* by scientists from China, Czech Republic, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, and USA.

During four years of existence, *Int. J. Nanotechnol.* has released nine special (double) issues and five regular ones, representing a total of 152 papers and editorials (mostly invited) and 2356 pages of in-depth coverage of major topics related to nanotechnology written by professionals from all over the world (30 different countries and counting). The journal has been released at major international conferences in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, and is indexed in leading publication databases such as ANTE, Chemical Abstracts® Services, Compendex®, Current Contents® (Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences and Engineering, Computing and Technology), Engineered Materials Abstracts, Google™Scholar, Ingenta Connect, INSPEC®, Journal Citation Reports®, Materials Science Citation Index®, Metadex, Pascal®, Science Citation Index™, SciFinder Scholar®, Scopus®, Technology and Management (TEMA), the Web of Science® and shortly in PubMed/MEDLINE.

A total of over 215 citations can be found (*h* index 9) on SCOPUS. An Impact Factor should have been released this year (IF 2006) but Thomson Scientific Corporation has officially announced that the citations are being collected only from the 2nd Volume (2005) leaving behind 100 citations from the inaugural volume (2004) with several articles in the top 1–10% for citations in Materials Science according to the latest *Essential Science Indicators* percentiles table.

The successful start of an innovative new series of special issues dedicated to the best of nanotechnology in selected countries/continents has been achieved with the release of special issues on: **Spain** (P. Serena, 2005), **Ukraine** (V. Pokropivny, 2006), **Korea** (S-W. Han, 2006), **China** (E. Wang, S. Yang, and J.G. Hou, 2007), and

Singapore (X.W. Sun, Z. Dong, and Y. Lei, 2007). This new series is being perpetuated with a growing number of additional issues currently being completed by eminent guest editors from all over the world:

- **Africa** (M. Maaza, iThemba LABS, South Africa; A.C. Beye, Université du Sénégal)
- **Australia** (A. Hill, CSIRO; C. Jagadish, Australian National University; P. Majewski, South Australia University)
- **Canada** (F. Rosei, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Université du Québec)
- **Egypt** (I.A. Ibrahim, CMRDI; H. Affify, National Research Center, Cairo)
- **France** (P. Goudeau, F. Grasset, CNRS)
- **Greece** (C. Fotakis, IESL; A. Nassiopoulou, IMEL/NCSR)
- **India** (G.U. Kulkarni, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre; J. Kumar, Indian Institute of Technology)
- **Ireland** (W. Ahmed, University of Ulster)
- **Italy** (A. deBattisti, Ferrara University; G. Bottaro and D. Barreca, Padova University)
- **Japan** (Y. Tachibana, Osaka University)
- **Latin America** (A. Fernandez, Universidad de Venezuela)
- **New Zealand** (J. Travas-Sejdic, Auckland University)
- **Sweden** (G. Westin, Uppsala University)
- **Taiwan** (Y-Y. Chen, M.K. Wu, Academia Sinica)
- **Thailand** (J. Dutta, Asian Institute of Technology)
- **Vietnam** (L.V. Hong, Institute of Materials Science, Hanoi).

The aim of such series is to genuinely identify active and representative research themes and researchers involved in nanotechnology in various countries. It reveals the status and advances of nanotechnology as well as promoting scientists, institutions, laboratories, research networks and funding agencies all over the world. Such an initiative is already contributing to develop a better knowledge of nanoscience and nanotechnology and thus, more active collaborations between researchers in different countries are happening. The journal has truly become a worldwide major source of information on nanotechnology.

The 2008 edition (5th Volume) will feature the special issues dedicated to Australia, Canada, and France. It will also feature special hot-topic issues dedicated to **Nanotoxicology** (Guest Editor: S.K. Sundaram, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) and to **Nanosensors** (Guest Editor: S. Islam, University of California at Davis).

The journal will continue delivering high quality and geographically-balanced papers on major topics related to nanoscience and nanotechnology with its new six-issue/year format. Both fundamental and applied aspects are equally represented by invited contributions from rising young scientists as well as more established ones

from many different fields. Moreover, beyond the very exciting new science, knowledge, and applications being discovered and investigated, the public awareness, perception, and understanding of nanoscience/nanotechnology is also of tremendous importance for the implementation and commercial success of such evolutionary and revolutionary technology. We intend to pursue such an educational direction and sincerely believe the journal is actively contributing to a better understanding of such a field.

Finally, all the authors, contributors, and readers are greatly acknowledged for their support, consideration, and appreciation of this new journal.