
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Martin Pumera received his PhD at Charles University, Czech Republic, in 2001. After two postdoctoral stays (in the USA with Joseph Wang and in Spain under Marie Curie Fellowship), he joined the National Institute for Materials Science, Japan, in 2006 for a tenure-track arrangement and stayed there until Spring 2008 when he accepted a tenured position at NIMS. In 2009, he received an ERC-StG award. He joined the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in 2010. He has broad interests in electrochemistry and electrophoresis, in the specific areas of nanotechnology and microsystems with applications for sensors, actuators and energy storage devices. He is member of Editorial board of Electrophoresis, Electroanalysis and eight other journals. His h-index is 30 and he published over 130 articles.

It is my pleasure to present this timely and much-needed special issue on Nanotechnology in the Czech Republic. This special issue will be in the company of previous special issues regarding Spain, Ukraine, Korea, China, Singapore, Australia, France (Parts I and II), Canada, Greece, New Zealand, Iran, Vietnam, and planned topic special issues on Portugal, Italy, Denmark, Finland, Turkey, Egypt, Vietnam, Taiwan, Brazil, Argentina, Algeria, and Ireland.

Science has always been central in the Czech Republic (or rather I should say in Czechoslovakia). One can list important achievements such as the awarding of the Nobel Prize for Polarography to Jaroslav Heyrovský (1959), the invention of contact lenses by Otto Wichterle (1961), or the development of the most effective drug produced so far for treating AIDS by Antonín Holý. Therefore, it is not surprising that nanotechnology research in the Czech Republic is strong with several groups engaged in world-leading research. In addition to academic research, I would like to emphasise here two very successful examples of the commercialisation of nanotechnology research, the commercialisation of nanotextiles (Elmarco) and zero-valent iron nanoparticles (NanoIron).

My motivation for organising this special issue on Nanotechnology in the Czech Republic is to highlight the most active groups in the field and to provide them with worldwide coverage. I wish to thank Professor Lionel Vayssieres, the Editor-in-Chief of the IJNT, for his enthusiasm and encouragement for the production of this special issue as well as to all the authors for their fine contributions.

We wish to dedicate this special issue to the memory of Vaclav Havel, the first president of the Czech Republic, who contributed significantly into the creation of a free Central Europe.