
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Mohammed Essaid Achour was a Maitre Assistant from 1983 to 1992 at the Sciences Faculty of Meknes (Morocco), Maitre de Conférence (1992–1996) and Professor. He joined the Sciences Faculty at Kenitra in 1999. He has co-authored or peer-reviewed more than 50 scientific papers published in leading refereed journals, about 100 congress communications, two book chapters and four guest editorials. He was the Chair of the Fourth Meeting On Dielectric Materials ‘IMDM’4’ (Marrakech, Morocco 29–31 May 2013) and the co-Chair of the International Symposium on the Advanced Materials for Optics Micro-Electronics and Nanoelectronics AMOMEN’2011 (Kenitra, Morocco, 27–29 October 2011).

Luis Cadillon Costa is an Associate Professor with Aggregation, in the University of Aveiro. His research activities include electrical properties of materials and microwave radiation for metrology and heating. He has published seven books, two book chapters, 128 papers, and he is responsible for 48 supervising activities. He is a member of the editorial board of several international journals and referee in 36 different periodicals, and their papers present 617 citations. He is the Director of the PhD course in Physical

Engineering, and responsible for the national competitions in Physics of PMate for secondary level students. He has participated in 42 projects, being coordinator of 11, with scientific collaboration with 26 universities and institutes, and with 14 industrial societies. His collaborations were made in several countries such as Portugal, Spain, France, Slovakia, Tunisia, Morocco, Brazil, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Polonia, Bulgaria, and Timor Lorosae.

Fouad Lahjomri received the 'Thèse de 3ème cycle' from The Bordeaux University I, France in 1983 and his PhD from the University of Quebec in 'Trois – Rivières', Canada, in 1996. From 1983 to 1999, he was Maitre Assistant and Maitre de Conférence, at Sciences Faculty of Meknes, Morocco. He joins the National Scholl of Applied Sciences of Tangier as Professor in 1999, where he was responsible for the research group GRAT in 2001, and the laboratory LABTIC, from 2005 to 2010. Since 2010, he is the Vice Director in charge of research and pedagogy. His research interests include microwave characterisation and dielectric responses of the composite materials in the natural and synthetic polymers.

Mustapha Mabrouki is actually a permanent Professor in Sultan Moulay Slimane University. He obtained his doctorate 3rd cycle graduate and state thesis from Cadi Ayyad University in 2004. He was a Post Doctoral Research Fellow from Miami University of USA. He is a Professor at the Faculty of Sciences and Technologies Béni Mellal since 1994. He is the Head and member of the Genie Industrial Laboratory. His field of interest is the organic and inorganic materials applied in electronic and optoelectronic areas. His current work is aimed at trying to understand how the surface is involved in biological adhesion. He is co-author of some 60 articles and a hundred papers in national and international conferences. He has participated in several scientific events as chairman or member as an organiser.

Welcome to the special issue on selected papers from the Fourth International Meeting on Dielectric Materials (IMDM'4) held in Marrakech, Morocco from 29–31 May 2013. The goal of the IMDM'4 Conference is to provide a platform for researchers, scientists from all over the world to exchange ideas on recent progress and developments in dielectric materials and their applications. It is addressed to the materials scientist, physicist, chemist, biologist, and electrical engineers engaged in fundamental and applied research work or in technical investigations on such materials. The IMDM'4 meeting will also be an opportunity to boost the existing scientific networks in this field and help in making new ones between universities and professional societies and pave the way for new collaborations. Topics of interest to the conference include:

- A Physics of space charge in non-conductive materials. Polymers, composites, ceramics, glasses, bio dielectrics and nanodielectrics, meta-materials, piezoelectric, pyroelectric and ferroelectric materials.
- B Dielectric properties, polarisation phenomena, charge storage and transport, high-field effects, energy localisation and thermodynamics of charged insulators, space charge characterisation techniques, aging, partial discharges, electrical breakdowns, friction, treeing, high-field effects.
- C Modelling and theory.

D Measurement techniques.

E Industrial and biomedical applications.

The Fourth International Meeting on Dielectric Materials (IMDM'4) follows three international meetings that were all organised in Tunisia:

- IMDM'1: Mahdia, Tunisia, 30 March–1 April 2000
- IMDM'2: Mahdia, Tunisia 24–26 January 2002
- IMDM'3: Monastir, Tunisia, 14–18 December 2011.

The papers, which were selected, could offer a good look into the subjects covered by the meeting and are just a bit of the 12 plenary lectures, 50 oral presentations and 100 poster presentations made in this meeting organised by the Faculty of Sciences Semlalia, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech and Faculty of Sciences of Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco with a scientific community integrated by research dielectric fields from 16 countries under the chairmanship of Professor M.E. Achour and the co-chairmanship of Professor A. Oueriagli, Professor A. Outzourhit and Professor K. Berrada, and with the help of an executive and an organising committees.

The aforementioned meeting could summarise the reasons for which *Journal of Materials Engineering Innovation; IJMatEI* devoted the issue number xx of volume xx to various investigations on dielectric materials.

An important reason for the success of the meeting was the participation of Dr. C. Brosseau, Dr. A. Hamraoui, Dr. B. Sahraoui and Dr. D. Remiens, from France, Dr. M. Wintersgill and Dr. J. Fontanella from USA, Dr. A. Buka and Dr. N. Eber from Hungary, Dr. M. Abou-Dakka from Canada, Dr. L.C. Costa from Portugal, Dr. L. Forro from Switzerland and Dr. P. Pissis from Greece as plenary conference speakers but all the 160 participants created a good and rich scientific atmosphere in which the main ideas of the today's in dielectric materials and their applications were shared.

So, it is a personal privilege to offer to the international community some of the results of the conference and we acknowledge Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Materials Engineering Innovation* Professor J. Paulo Davim, the Journal Manager Professor A. Mason and their staff for the good job made to extend the fruitful three days of the IMDM'4 Conference to readers of the journal.