
Preface

Ismail Fidan

Manufacturing and Engineering Technology,
College of Engineering,
Tennessee Tech University,
920 N. Peachtree Avenue, Cookeville,
TN 38505-5003, USA
Email: IFidan@tntech.edu

Biographical notes: Ismail Fidan has received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Anadolu University, as well as a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Istanbul Technical University and a Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has taught courses in areas of Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, and Industrial Engineering at US universities including Tennessee Tech University, University of Northern Iowa, and NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering. He is currently serving as an Associate Editor of *IEEE Transactions on Components, Packaging and Manufacturing Technology* and *International Journal of Rapid Manufacturing*.

The increasing number of organisations and institutions that undertake additive manufacturing (AM) R&D, workforce development and educational practices indicates that the technology is establishing itself as credible within the manufacturing domain. Areas of focus are broad, encompassing design and fabrication to modelling, simulation, engineering, architecture, construction, art, biomedicine, dentistry, defence, genetics, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals, forensics, and photonics. It is clear that AM is transforming many aspects of product development from design and fabrication to quality assurance and beta-testing. Through the years, R&D and higher education institutions worldwide have played a crucial role in all aspects of AM education and in furthering research activities.

Although AM first emerged in the late 1980s with Stereolithography, today's implementations in hybrid metal printing and low-cost desktop printing make it very attractive in a number of fields. The objective of these special issues is to report the latest technological advancements in processes, materials, design for AM and emerging technologies.

I have received a number of high-quality manuscripts from many researchers around the world. Each manuscript was peer-reviewed by *IJRapidM* technical reviewers. After the first and second round reviews almost 20% of the submitted manuscripts were declined. Special Issues are the collection of these accepted articles. Throughout this process I'd like to thank our editor-in-chief, Dr. Bahram Asiabanpour and Inderscience Publishing staff members for their help and support to make these issues complete.

I also want to take the opportunity to extend my genuine acknowledgement to all the authors and technical reviewers for extending their kind co-operation which truly helped these special issues become great success. I do very much appreciate your support as we strive to make *IJRapidM* one of the most authoritative journals in advanced manufacturing. Lastly, I wish all readers an enjoyable and informative reading experience with the peer-reviewed R&D articles published in these issues.