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## Preface

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**Biographical notes:** Ismail Fidan is a Professor of Engineering Technology at the Tennessee Tech University. He received his Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Anadolu University, Master's of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Istanbul Technical University and Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has taught courses in the areas of engineering technology, mechanical engineering, manufacturing engineering, and industrial engineering at US universities including Tennessee Tech University, University of Northern Iowa, and NYU Tandon 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* and Associate Author of Wohlers Reports.

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As worldwide manufacturing is on the verge of a major transformation, conventional manufacturing techniques including forging, welding, casting, and milling are no longer being widely used to investigate or contribute to the general body of knowledge on these technologies. New information and production technologies are rapidly offering solutions that not only make the control of manufacturing more efficient, but also the process itself smarter and more cost-effective. It is clear that the manufacturing field of the 21st century needs unique contributions and novel approaches to solving today's complex challenges and those of the future. The objective of this special issue is to report some of the latest technological advancements in processes, design, optimisation, 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. The special issue is the collection of accepted articles. Throughout this process, I would like to thank our Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Bahram Asiabanpour and Inderscience Publishing staff members for their help and support to make this special issue complete. I also want to take the opportunity to extend my genuine acknowledgement to all the authors and technical reviewers for extending their kind cooperation which truly helped this special issue 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 this issue.