Preface

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Published online: 22 June 2010
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An international conference on Sol-gel Processes for Advanced Ceramics was also known by the acronym 'SGPAC-2009' was held at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, India. The seminar was held in the idyllic surroundings of the Convention Centre, Anupuram, near Kalpakkam, during October 11–14, 2009. 150 delegates, comprising plenary and invited speakers, experts from abroad, students and research scholars from Indian academic and research institutions participated in the conference.

SGPAC-2009 started on October 11, 2009 with inaugural speeches by the experts, keynote address etc. The various topics covered in the conference include sol-gel processes for materials such as structural ceramics, nano composites, solution/sol-gel nano materials, thin films, membranes, porous ceramics organo-inorganic gels, nuclear ceramics, bio-ceramics etc. as well as modeling of sol-gel. The

conference sessions were structured topic wise, with four plenary lectures, nineteen invited talks by experts and 20 oral presentations by young researchers. There were in total 68 contributory papers, out of which 48 were presented as posters during the conference. A special session was devoted to the discussions on the use of sol-gel in nuclear fuel cycle. The exchange of information during the conference was very comprehensive and would benefit all the researchers, especially the young researchers in a big way.

It is very heartening to note that the Journal of Sol-Gel Science and Technology (JSST) has taken special interest in publishing some selected papers from the conference as a special issue. On behalf of the organizing committee of SGPAC-2009, I express my gratitude to the JSST editorial board for this gesture. I am sure the international sol-gel community would find very informative this special issue.

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