Foreword

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This special edition of PCPP is dedicated to honour Emeritus Professor Emil Pfender (1925–2016), of the University of Minnesota, who together with Stan Veprek, then of the University of Zürich, co-founded the journal *Plasma Chemistry and Plasma Processing*, and served for 25 years as its joint Editor-in-Chief. The journal, now in its 38th year, remains one of the most important and prestigious in its field.

The participants in this special edition were all invited from the general scientific community for their outstanding contributions to the field of plasma science and technology. Most of the contributors are scholars who worked with Professor Pfender or had the chance to meet him at our numerous scientific conferences. They all have been active in the many facets of our broad field of plasma chemistry, whether in the areas of plasma source development, plasma diagnostics and modelling or plasma process development. The topics covered include:

- Electrode phenomena,
- Plasma modelling,
- Effect of metal vapor on radiation properties of plasmas,
- Plasma diagnostics,
- Nanopowder synthesis,
- Plasma spraying,
- Plasma treatment of organic substances and waste materials.

By publishing this special edition of PCPP, we would like to acknowledge and honour the outstanding contribution of Professor Pfender to the field of thermal plasmas over more than five decades of active research and development work. His passion and commitment to this field will live on through the highly-qualified graduate students and research fellows who had the chance of working with him and continue his pioneering work in the areas of

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arc and electrode phenomena, studies of plasma synthesis of ultrafine powders, later termed “nanoparticles”, the development of processes using thermal plasmas to deposit thin films and coatings of diamond, and plasma spraying fundamentals. Professor Pfender’s legacy and contribution to the field will also continue through the publication of our joint ‘Handbook of Thermal Plasmas’, which is presently being published on-line by Springer as it progresses, and should be completed and available in hardcopy in 2018.