Preface

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Professor Sir David A. King turned 75 on August 12, 2014. To celebrate and honor his contributions to science and science policy-making, we organized a symposium entitled “Surface Science, Science Policy Making, and Sustainable Development” at the American Chemical Society meeting, held on August 10–14, 2014 in San Francisco. Sir David King contributed to responding to the global climate and energy challenge in both his governmental and academic roles, as UK’s Chief Scientific Advisor and Special Representative for Climate Change and as the founding director of Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford. His latest contributions have been best represented in his keynote lecture entitled “Improving human well-being on a resource-limited planet - can we do it?”, delivered at the symposium. These contributions fitted well with the theme of the San Francisco ACS national meeting: “Chemistry and Global Stewardship”. Sir David King attended the entire symposium and was actively engaged in discussion. Many of Sir David

King’s former students, postdocs and colleagues from all over the world gathered in San Francisco for this SPECIAL occasion.

This special issue included 13 articles, dealing with a wide range of topics from fundamental surface sciences to heterogeneous catalysis, almost evenly split between theory- and experiment-based studies. We hope that the collection of articles in the special issue offers a glimpse of Sir David King’s impact on science and sustainable development.

We thank Professor Gabor Somorjai, the Editor in Chief, and Dr. Kenneth Howell, the senior editor of the Topics in Catalysis, for the kind invitation and for the opportunity of guest-editing this special issue for the journal. We also thank all the authors for contributing to the special issue. Finally, we thank Sir David King for the enjoyable years that we spent in Cambridge and for his continued inspiration and guidance.

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