Preface

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This special issue contains 25 articles based on papers presented at the 24th Iberoamerican Congress on Catalysis, held at the University of Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia, 15–19 September 2014. The Iberoamerican tradition in catalysis dates back to the beginning of the 20th century—to Prof.s Giral, Hauser and Fortuny who pioneered the science of Catalysis in Spain as early as 1908. However, it was not until 1968, with researchers from Venezuela, Argentina and Spain attending, that the first Iberoamerican Congress on Catalysis took place in Madrid, Spain. Since then, this congress has been organized by the Iberoamerican Federation of Catalysis Societies (FISOCAT), although the responsibility of the conference organization rotates between the different national societies. The Colombian Catalysis Society organized this 24th edition in Medellín.

The main topic of the congress was ‘Catalysis for Biorefineries’ to which most of the plenary and keynote lectures were devoted; global trends and Iberoamerican peculiarities were clearly reflected in these presentations. The role of renewable feedstock in the region and the key role of catalysis were thoroughly discussed.

The 24th Iberoamerican Congress on Catalysis consisted of 5 plenary lectures, 10 keynote lectures, 10 extended

talks given by nationally awarded young researchers, a discussion forum, 183 oral presentations and 450 posters. We were happy to receive participants not only from the Iberoamerican region but also from The Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, France, Denmark, USA, and Canada; this reflected the real international dimension of the conference. We are pleased to thank all of them. The congress covered all subjects from catalyst design and synthesis to the reactors most relevant to energy-related and environmental processes, emphasizing the need for new cleaner and more energy-efficient processes.

The main aim of the congress—the further development of catalytic science and technology in our region as well as the education of young scientists and students in the fundamentals of catalysis—is important for the scientific and social wealth of our community.

This special issue is the result of the invitation to participants to submit manuscripts based on their presentations. All manuscripts underwent a rigorous review, and the result is this issue that reflects the state of the art of catalysis in Iberoamerica. The Editors wish to specially thank Professor Gabor A. Somorjai for inviting us to prepare this special issue dedicated to the 24th Iberoamerican Congress in Catalysis. We also recognize the excellent work of all authors and reviewers as well as the advice of the members of the Scientific and Organization Committees.

We also wish to thank all our sponsors who generously support the congress. We also thank the international advisory board and organizing committee members.

The next XXV CICAT will take place in Montevideo, Uruguay in September 2016.

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