Foreword

The 27th International Conference on Thermoelectrics was held in Corvallis, OR, USA from August 3–7, 2008. The conference was sponsored by the International Thermoelectric Society and was hosted by the University of Oregon.

The conference was an international forum for the exchange of recent findings within the thermoelectrics community, providing a comprehensive view of the state of the art in thermoelectric applications, thermoelectric materials development and discovery, and the design and development of thermoelectric modules. Two hundred and fifty-two senior researchers and 85 graduate students from around the world attended the conference. There were 113 oral presentations and 143 poster presentations presented at the conference. The support of the Office of Naval Research and ONR Global, which provided travel support for international visitors, conference support for graduate students, and conference support for invited speakers, is gratefully acknowledged. The support of corporate sponsors General Motors and ULVAC is also gratefully acknowledged. The 2008 International Thermoelectric Society Goldsmid Award for excellence in research in thermoelectrics by a graduate student was presented to Matt K. Beekman of the University of South Florida for his work on novel type II clathrates. We would like to thank Marlow Industries for the financial support of the Goldsmid Award.

This special issue contains selected papers presented at the ICT 2008. The peer-reviewed papers span several important areas of current thermoelectric material and device development. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all of the authors, the diligent efforts of all of the reviewers, and the support of the staff of the JEM for making this issue possible. We especially wish to thank Professor Suzanne Mohny, the editor of JEM, for her assistance and efforts in the review, editing, and publication process.

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