Preface

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I am pleased to present this special collection of articles from the 36th annual NATAS conference. Over 240 people gathered from 16 nations to learn from the over 200 articles that were presented over 3 days. The papers and posters covered 15 topical areas of materials science including polymers, rheology, metals, ceramics, energetic materials, pharmaceuticals, and especially material characterization.

It was a delight to work with conference co-chair, Michael Rich, the technical program chair, Larry Judovits, and the entire conference committee to bring NATAS to Atlanta, Georgia. My thanks go out to the entire conference committee for the help in coordinating and organizing this event. I am especially grateful for the help of Lois Hall, Svenja Goth, David Jones, Gordon Hall, Roger Blaine, Bill Hammeter, Mike Kessler, Linda Bryson, Drew McGhie, and Tom Ramotowski. We are all indebted to Eric Schoch, Jeremy Clifton, and Mike Rich for an outstanding job coordinating the conference proceedings.

The conference kicked off with a fantastic two-day short course, organized by David Jones. The course was a tremendous success providing an introduction to thermal analysis as well as instruction on advanced topics including flammability, pharmaceuticals, energetic materials, and

polymers. New in 2008 was a highly regarded professional development session organized by Roger Blaine. The honorary session for Harvey Bair was a standing room only session to celebrate the exceptional career of a scientist whom I greatly admire.

The banquet was a celebration of achievements and well-deserved recognition for both new and old members. The student award winners including Christopher Kaul, Arun Kota, Madhavi Vadlamudi, Yung Koh, John Beard, Rebecca Alway-Cooper, Huipeng Chen, Evgeny Zhuaev, and Tim Mauldin represent a very bright future for our society and the thermal analysis community. Professor Edward Charsley and Professor Peggy Cebe were awarded NATAS Fellowship recognizing a history of distinguished scientific achievement and outstanding scholarship. Professor Wei Ping Pan was recognized for distinguished achievement in the field of thermal analysis. Tom Ramotowski received the NATAS outstanding service award. Tina Adams, Eric Schoch, and I received executive appreciation awards for contributions to the society.

I hope you enjoy this compilation of selected articles from an outstanding technical conference.

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