GUEST EDITORIAL

Special Issue Focus: Surface Engineering

In view of the global interest in materials and energy savings to ensure environmental sustenance, the need to take stock of current research trends in surface engineering emanates by default. This special issue focus of the *Journal of Materials Engineering and Performance* (JMEP) is a nonevent collection of original research papers falling within the broad field of surface engineering and focusing on the emerging means to resist time-dependent failures of engineering components, resulting in their life enhancement.

The Special Issue Focus on Surface Engineering is comprised of invited papers from reputed scientists across the globe; it also contains contributions from a number of authors responding to the formal call for papers for this special issue.

The papers are extremely diverse in respect of topical interest within the domain of surface engineering. This special issue has wide coverage, viz. sputter deposition coating for technological application, friction-induced structural modification of thin films, development of new nanocomposite coating, laser-induced periodic structuring, use of novel deposition techniques for improvement of surface properties, enhancing thermal stability by new generation nitride coating, and discovery of coating materials and techniques for improvement of wear and corrosion resistance of commercially important metals and alloys. To be precise, the published papers have the general focus on sustainable and environmentally benign coating materials development and the design of alternative techniques with lower environmental burden.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the task of Guest Editor of JMEP, especially my involvement in steering the entire review process. I wish to record my sincere thanks to the authors for their valued contributions and acknowledge with gratitude the cooperation extended by the reviewers who took the trouble of careful reading and critical evaluation of the manuscripts and finally giving their valuable suggestions to improve the quality of the papers. I am particularly grateful to the editor-in-chief of JMEP, Dr. Rajiv Asthana, who has rendered great support to me throughout the entire process. I shall be failing to do my duty unless I confess the immense gratitude I owe to Ms. Kate Doman for the help and support extended to me. Thanks are also due to Mr. Vincent Katona and all other ASM journal staff for their professional and friendly support during the entire publication process.

I shall be content if the collection of research papers in this special issue is able to stimulate fresh thinking and promote further research in surface engineering.

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