ISSPIC'14 - 14th International Symposium on Small Particles and Inorganic Clusters

Preface

This special issue of The European Physical Journal D contains a compilation of contributions from participants representing the main topics covered at the 14th International Symposium on Small Particles and Inorganic Clusters, ISSPIC'14, held from September 15th to 19th, 2008 in Valladolid, Spain.

There are many international conferences that have emerged in recent years in response to growing interest in nanoscience and nanotechnology. Despite this, since its pioneering start in 1976, the biennial ISSPIC conference series maintains a leading status in the field of fundamental science of clusters and nanometric structures, and in the analysis of finite size effects and their role bridging the gap from atoms and molecules to the bulk. This is reflected in the present issue. Each manuscript received during the conference and accepted for publication has followed the strict rules of The European Physical Journal regarding original publications.

Some 250 participants from 23 countries attended the symposium. Following the style of previous ISSPIC meetings there were no parallel sessions, and a significant amount of time was devoted to the four lively poster sessions, where 225 posters were presented, a large fraction of them by graduate students. Twenty invited talks, five of them plenary, were presented. In addition 24 hot topics were selected between the participants contributions for oral presentations. We think that ISSPIC'14 has achieved the goal of enhancing scientific exchange and personal relations among participants.

One of the sessions of the conference was dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Jaroslav Koutecký. His early application of quantum mechanical methods in the study of surface phenomena, his seminal work in the area of cluster science at the Free University Berlin (1973–2000) and his subsequent pioneering studies of spectroscopy, dynamics and reactivity of clusters had a strong impact on the development of the modern research area of chemistry and photochemistry of large finite systems. The present issue is also a tribute to the memory of the late Professor Bernhard Mühlischlegel, who has also been a distinguished member of the cluster community.

We are grateful to the members of the International Advisory Committee and to the Local Organizing Committee for their help in selecting the invited talks and the hot topic contributions, and to the many people who contributed to the success of the conference. We thank also the sponsoring institutions: Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, Junta de Castilla y León, Fundación Universidades de Castilla y León, University of Valladolid, and the City Council of Valladolid.

Finally we specially thank Prof. E. Campbell for her help in the editing of this special issue.

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