

Editorial

The European Coating Symposium has reached its 7th edition. After Leeds, Strasbourg, Erlangen, Brussels, Fribourg and Bradford, Paris has welcome this original coating community, which mixes scientists and engineers, from both academics or industry. As for the previous events, this biannual conference has been a major opportunity to confront diverse experiences of people sharing a common interest in coating processes and also in the fundamental physics underlying these processes. This special edition of EPJ Special Topics collects papers presented in this meeting that reflect the diversity and dynamism of the event, and also the complexity of fundamental physics involved in these processes. We thank those authors who took the time to contribute and endured the lengthy review process.

The meeting drew more than 150 registered participants from all over the world. It included 60 oral communications, 40 posters and 6 invited keynote talks. It was the first significant international meeting organized on the new campus of the Paris Diderot University (also known as University of Paris 7). The success of this ECS symposium led us to introduce some changes in ECS habits, such as a whole day split into parallel sessions. This success attests of the dynamism of the ECS community, with its diverse components: hydrodynamics, wetting, drying, physicochemistry, etc.

In addition to these changes, ECS2007 also evolved with respect to the content of the meeting. While keeping the fundamentals of this content (coating flows, coating processes, wetting dynamics, interface dynamics . . .), we have encouraged the evolution towards new subjects such as: drying, nanoscale effects, self-assembling, complex fluids, patterned or textured surfaces, industrial processes remaining unexplored or poorly explored by previous ECS (ink jet printing, glass industry . . .). Exploring new fields is essential to maintain the dynamism of the event.

ECS2007 is also always a great occasion for many people and old friends to meet again a new time. We have tried to make the event very festive with a cruise banquet on the river Seine flowing along the campus and a tasting of French wines and cheeses during the poster session. This meeting was also a good opportunity to remember late Prof. De Gennes and late Prof. Scriven; they had a considerable role in our scientific field. Prof. De Gennes awarded by the Nobel prize in 1991 addressed a wide spectrum of physics and notably turned the spotlight back on wetting. Prof. Scriven was a remarkable direct contributor to the field of coating, with energy, rigour and enthusiasm especially as an educator of first-class researchers. The ECS community have greatly benefited from their contribution. Though not available in these proceedings, two special talks were organized to review and celebrate their contributions by D. Quéré and P. Schweizer during the meeting.

We now wish to express our thanks to all the attendees who greatly contributed to the success of this symposium. We are very grateful to Paris Diderot University who constantly supported this event, to Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) for financial

support. We also acknowledge the constant help of Laboratoire Matière et Systèmes Complexes (MSC), and especially to Claudine Héneaux, the symposium secretary, to Nadine Beyer, and our team of students. We are also grateful to laboratoire PMMH (Physique et Mécanique des Milieux Hétérogènes) and to UFR de Physique for helping us at various occasions. Finally we thank the ECS committee who accepted to trust us with the organisation of the meeting and was a source of helpful advice at several occasions.

Organizing this meeting has been a collective adventure in which each member of the organizing committee has invested many efforts and offered his own qualities in a complementary way. The success of this meeting is the result of sharing all our efforts. Finally we wish a good luck to Prof. Schabel and his colleagues who will organize ECS 2009 at Karlsruhe (Germany).

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(<http://www.ecs2007.org>)