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Preface

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Preface

The **International Conference on Surfaces, Coatings and Nanostructured Materials (NANOSMAT)** was held at the *Gdansk University of Technology*, Poland, running from September 11th to 14th, 2018. This conference is the 13th in the NANOSMAT conference series. NANOSMAT-1 (in 2005) and NANOSMAT-2 (in 2007) were both held in Portugal, whereas, NANOSMAT-3 (in 2008), NANOSMAT-4 (in 2009), NANOSMAT-5 (2010), NANOSMAT-6 (2011), NANOSMAT-7 (2012), NANOSMAT-8 (2013), NANOSMAT-9 (2014), NANOSMAT-10 (2015), NANOSMAT-11 (2016) and NANOSMAT-12 were held in Barcelona (Spain), Rome (Italy), Reims (France), Krakow (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic), Granada (Spain), Dublin (Ireland), Manchester (UK), Aveiro (Portugal) and Paris (France) respectively. The conference was chaired by Professor Jeff De Hosson (Netherlands), Professor Robert Bogdanowicz (Poland) and Dr. Nasar Ali (UK).

Key HIGHLIGHTS: The 2018 event again hosted the highly successful *Young Scientist Lecture Competition*, and the *Best Poster Competition*. The prestigious NANOSMAT Prize 2018, the highest recognition for achievements in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology by the NANOSMAT community, was awarded by a panel of judges to **Professor Paul Weiss** from University of California, Los Angeles in USA who delivered his award-winning lecture titled “*Global Opportunities in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology*”. The **2018 “NANOSMAT AWARD”** was presented to **Professor Ali Khademhosseini** from UCLA in USA who lectured on “*Micro and nanoengineered hydrogels for regenerative engineering*”. The **NANOSMAT Medal 2018** award was presented to **Professor Florin Udrea** from University of Cambridge, UK who lectured on “*Microsensors and nanotechnology applied to environmental monitoring: a powerful combination for the future*”. The **KROTO AWARD 2018** (in memory of the late **Sir Harold Kroto** FRS) recipient was **Dr Michael Naguib** from Tulane University, USA for outstanding achievements in nanoscience and nanotechnology. Again the 13th NANOSMAT conference is being held in conjunction with the **Second NANOSMAT SCHOOL** (www.nanosmat-school.org).

The conference attracted 500 abstracts and some 300 delegates belonging to approx. 50 countries of the world. The conference fostered the gathering of extremely talented and truly international people to exchange novel ideas, share new knowledge and technical know-how in the broad fields of nanoscience and technology. The oral talks were conducted in 4 parallel sessions. SYMPOSIA, included Nanomaterials, Surface, Science, Engineering and Technology, Energy, Nano-particles, Nano-Medicine and Nano-Biotechnology, Carbon based Nanostructures, special session NANO-Mediterranean.

We have received many manuscripts for this special issue of Applied Surface Science. The papers were all peer reviewed and the reviewing processes was under responsibility of the following team of Guest editors: Professor Jeff Th. M. De Hosson (chair), Dr. Nasar Ali, Dr. Giuseppe Fierro (CNR, Italy), Dr. Mahmood Aliofkhazraei, Professor Mircea Chipara. After the reviewing process in total around 30 papers were selected for publication in Applied Surface Science.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support in making NANOSMAT-13 a great success and in particular Elsevier making this special issue in Applied Surface Science possible for the international nanoscience and nanotechnology community.

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