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Preface - 'NANOSMAT-Paris 2017'

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Published in:
Applied Surface Science

DOI:
[10.1016/j.apsusc.2018.03.115](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsusc.2018.03.115)

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2018

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

De Hosson, J. T. M., Ali, N., Fierro, G., Aliofkhazraei, M., & Chipara, M. (2018). Preface - 'NANOSMAT-Paris 2017'. *Applied Surface Science*, 446, 1-2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsusc.2018.03.115>

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Preface – ‘NANOSMAT-Paris 2017’

The “**International Conference on Surfaces, Coatings and Nano-Structured Materials**” (**NANOSMAT**) has rapidly emerged as the premier conference in the field of materials science, engineering, technology and all aspects of “nano”. The 12th International Conference on Surfaces, Coatings and Nanostructured Materials (NANOSMAT) was held at the *Pierre & Marie Curie University* in Paris, France. This conference is in the NANOSMAT conference series. The first two NANOSMAT conferences were held in Portugal (2005, 2007), whereas, the subsequent NANOSMAT meetings were held in Barcelona (Spain), Rome (Italy), Reims (France), Krakow (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic), Granada (Spain), Dublin (Ireland), Manchester (UK) and Aveiro (Portugal).

The 12th NANOSMAT 2017 conference was very successfully running from September 11th to 13th, local host **professor Abdelhafed TALEB (France)**, **Chairs Dr. Nasar Ali (UK)** and co-chair **Professor Jeff Th.M. De Hosson (Netherlands)**. 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 3/4 parallel sessions. SYMPOSIA, included Nanomaterials, Surface, Science, Engineering and Technology, Energy, Nano-particles, Nano-Medicine and Nano-Biotechnology, Carbon based Nanostructures. Special sessions were organized on NanoAfrica and NanoTurkey.

Key HIGHLIGHTS included: 2017 NANOSMAT Prize, 2017 NANOSMAT AWARD, KROTO AWARD, Young Lecture Competition, Poster Competition, and Tutorials. The prestigious NANOSMAT Prize 2017, the highest recognition for achievements in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology by the NANOSMAT community, was awarded in 2017 by a panel of judges to **Professor Cees Dekker** from Delft University of Technology in Netherlands who delivered his superb and entertaining award-winning lecture titled “*Nanotechnology for single- molecule nanotechnology*”. This year’s 2017 “NANOSMAT AWARD” was presented to **Professor Andrea Ferrari** from University of Cambridge in UK who gave his very inspirational lecture on “*A journey through carbons*”.

For the first time, in 2017 the annual inaugural KROTO AWARD (in memory of the late Sir Harold Kroto FRS) was awarded to **Dr. Matthew Cole** from the University of Bath, UK for outstanding

achievements in nanoscience and nanotechnology. The KROTO AWARD each year will recognize excellence and honour younger scientists (*PostDoc Level, Junior Scientists*) for outstanding scientific output and achievements in nanoscience and technology. **Diego Ribas Gomes** (Groningen) won the Young Lecture Competition 2017.

12th NANOSMAT conference was held in conjunction with the first ever NANOSMAT SCHOOL (<http://www.nanosmat-school.org>). We hope the delegates immensely benefited from this school. International and world-renowned scientists, including Professor Werner Blau (Ireland), Professor Samir Iqbal (USA), Dr Giuseppe Fierro (Italy), Professor Jeff De Hosson (Netherlands) and Professor Abdelhafed TALEB (France) lectured at the SCHOOL.

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**.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support in making NANOSMAT-12 a great success and in particular Elsevier making this special issue possible for the international nanoscience and nanotechnology community.

Front cover picture: Appl. Surf. Sci. special issue 2018

Text:

Ion-beam irradiation of Au cantilever of various thickness as a function of Ga fluence [1].

References

- [1] Diego R. Gomes, Young Lecture Competition Winner 2017 (see on the mechanism of ion-induced bending of nanostructures, *Appl. Surf. Sci. Special Issue* 2018).

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Available online 16 March 2018