

Materials Research - Revista Ibero-americana de Materiais

Críteriosa, justa e educativa!

The importance of using scientific approaches to describe microstructures is widely recognized. Most of the major developments in this field took place in the late 1800s and mainly during the 20th century, led by Frederick N. Rhines, Cyril S. Smith, Robert T. DeHoff and other brilliant scientists. In 1986 Rhines coined the word microstructology and in 1989 the term structology was suggested by Wander L. Vasconcelos, in his PhD Thesis. This word was thought to best represent the broadness of application of geometrical concepts that ranges from nanostructures to the very large structures of galaxies, thus including material's microstructures. .

In this issue of *Materials Research* we are presenting 26 selected articles from the Second Brazilian Symposium on Structology. This Symposium was held in Tiradentes, September 2001. Like the First Symposium, this one was organized by the Nucleus of Application and Development of the Science and Engineering of Microstructures - NADCEM. The main goal of NADCEM is promoting the use of structology in many different ways.

One hundred and twenty five abstracts were submitted to the Symposium, and the associated works were presented

either in oral or poster sections. Fifty-five full papers were submitted for publication, which were thoroughly revised by at least two referees each. The recommended manuscripts were sent back to the authors for the required modifications and improvements and finally 26 papers were selected for publication in this special issue.

We would like to thank every one who gave his or her contribution to the Symposium, specially each participant of the meeting. We are deeply grateful to the outstanding contributions of Dr. Robert T. DeHoff, Dr. Martin E. Glicksman, Dr. José A. Varela and Dr. Fernando C. Rizzo. We acknowledge the support of UFMG, CDTN, FAPEMIG, CNPq, CAPES, ACESITA and ABCP.

We hope that the contents of this issue of *Materials Research* will be helpful to our colleagues that use structology in their research. It is our intention that this thematic issue will have the same great success as the issue associated to the First Brazilian Symposium on Structology, published in July of 1999.

Wander L. Vasconcelos
Guest Editor

On behalf of the editorial board of *Materials Research* I deeply thank Professor Wander L. Vasconcelos for organizing such an enjoyable symposium and for putting together this thematic issue. Thanks are also due to CNPq and Fapesp for funding this publication.

Edgar D. Zanotto
Editor in Chief
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