

# Preface

Dear reader,

This special issue of the “Bulgarian Chemical Communications” comprises most of the studies, presented at the Scientific Session on “Advanced Materials and Technologies”, that was held in Sofia on October 10-11, 2016.

The Scientific Session was organized by the Institute for Optical Materials and Technologies “Acad. Jordan Malinowski” at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The program involved invited lectures and poster presentations in three contemporary scientific directions in material science: optical characterization and monitoring of processes; materials for biomedical and environmental applications; thin films and multilayer systems for applications in photonics, optoelectronics and sensor technique. The testimony for the vivid interest this event provoked was the really high response rate materializing into more than 60 participants. The presentation of the invited distinguished lecturers in the above key research fields along with the participation of prominent Bulgarian scientists, working together with colleagues from leading international Institutes was highly appreciated by all present. The significant attendance of young scientists and PhD students indisputably added to the attractiveness of the session. Moreover, the continuous face-to-face communication during the session days provided valuable opportunities to the attendees to share knowledge and exchange experience, to network actively and confer on the latest developments in the fields of research and technologies in the corresponding areas of interest, that in fact was session’s core mission. For those who didn’t have the chance to be there – we hope that this reading will serve as a teaser to attend the next round.

Wishing you an exciting and beneficial experience,

*Guest editors of the special issue:*

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