

PREFACE

This special issue of RAMS contains selected papers from the 5th Workshop on Functional and Nanostructured Materials held in Lviv, Ukraine, on 31 August-6 September 2008 (<http://www.fnma08.gda.pl>). With around 100 participants from across the world (Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Italy, Greece, Malta, Vietnam, UK, US) the workshop proved to be a successful follow-up to the previous three workshops held in Athens, Greece, in 2004-2006, and the 4th workshop held in Gdansk, Poland, in 2007 (for Proceedings see RAMS Vol. 8, No.1 (2004), RAMS Vol. 12, Nos 1 & 2 (2006), RAMS Vol. 14, Nos 1 & 2 (2007), J.Non-Cryst. Solids, vol. 354 (2008)).

The selected papers concern, inter alia, experimental, theoretical and/or simulation studies of structure, electrical and transport properties, spectral and magnetic properties, absorption, luminescence, photovoltaic effect, elastic properties, collective diffusion and selfassembly in systems of nanoparticles, carbon nanotubes, magnetic microwires and field-tunable multifunctional macro-composites, hybrid heterojunctions, homopolymers, block copolymers and star-branched copolymers, and auxetic materials.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the workshop sponsors, the Ukrainian Ministry of Higher Education, the TASK Computer Center in Gdansk (Poland) and the Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center (Poland). We also are indebted to the Scientific Committee and the Local Organizing Committee. Special thanks to the participants without whom the workshop could not be so successful.

Guest Editors

Jarosław Rybicki

Gdansk University of Technology, Poland

Krzysztof W. Wojciechowski

Institute of Molecular Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznan, Poland

Mirosław R. Dudek

University of Zielona Góra, Poland

Nikolaos Gouskos,

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Janusz Typek

West Pomeranian University of Technology, Szczecin, Poland