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Preface

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JUDY RAPER

Chair, Fourth World Congress on Particle Technology, Dean of Engineering,
University of Sydney

Particle technology accounts for a multi-billion dollar global development in a number of industries including minerals processing, pharmaceuticals, food processing, chemicals manufacture and environmental management. Held only once every 4 years, the World Congress offers a wonderful opportunity for energetic and productive interchange of ideas on subjects in particle technology, which continues to develop as a discipline and has profound effects on some 75% of manufacturing processes. The Fourth World Congress on Particle Technology (WCPT4) held in Sydney, Australia, 21–25 July 2002 brought together over 600 academic and industry practitioners for 4 days of fruitful presentations and discussions. Areas of interest have widened from new techniques in characterization to new application areas in biology, medicine and nanostructured materials. The Congress covered all these and traditional areas in an outstanding technical program with plenary lectures complemented by oral and poster sessions, and a unique stream of lectures entitled ‘Getting Started in Particle Technology’ for those new to the field.

The meeting was accompanied by a Student Conference, which enabled postgraduate students to meet and make new friends, many of whom will last their lifetimes. The Particle Technology Student Conference has been held every 18 months in Australia since the first in Sydney in 1996. The Conference allows postgraduate students, research fellows, academic supervisors and industrial researchers to come together for a weekend where they can discuss their latest research efforts in particle technology in a relaxed and comfortable environment. As a result, there was a large proportion of students as delegates at the conference proper and this led to an informal atmosphere in addition to the stimulating technical sessions.

As Chair of the Congress, I had considerable pleasure in travelling to different parts of the world to invite delegates to come to Australia and participate in our meeting. I have particular fond memories of meetings with my Japanese colleagues in Gifu, Kyoto, Tokyo and Yokohama, and discussions, which led to many Japanese delegates, and lifetime friendships.

A selection of the papers have been developed, submitted and are printed in this Special Issue. I hope you enjoy reading them and I extend to you an invitation from the WCPT5 organizing committee to attend the 5th World Congress on Particle Technology in Orlando in 2006.