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JMMM Special Issue 2016 – Preface



The 11th International Conference on the Scientific and Clinical Applications of Magnetic Carriers took place in the spring this year on the beautiful campus of the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, Canada. In this JMMM Special Issue 2016, the organizers of the meeting are honored to publish original papers representing the research presented during the conference.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Magnetic Carriers Conference, a biennial event that took root with its first meeting in 1996 in Rostock, Germany. The continued success of this meeting, which has taken place in academic centers across Europe and North America, reflects the continued interest and activity in the research, development and clinical applications of micrometer and sub-micrometer sized synthetic particles with controlled magnetic properties. It also demonstrates the power of free association of individuals, not supported by any official scientific society or a

learned organization, but driven by a common interest in basic and applied science related to magnetic particles.

In his introductory talk, founding organizer Dr. Wolfgang Schütt, University of Applied Sciences, Krems, Austria noted that a number of participants present at the first conference in 1996 were also actively involved in this 20th anniversary conference (notably Dr. Paul Liberti of BioMagnetic Solutions LLC, and the inventor of bioferrofluid ushering the era of clinical tests for circulating tumor cells). Dr. Schütt's lively talk underscored the highly interdisciplinary and interactive nature of the conferences, and also the critical role, selfless dedication and drive of an individual committed to the formidable job of conference organization: Dr. Urs Häfeli, who also maintains the highly informative "magneticmicrosphere.com" website.

This volume covers a broad range of topics related to scientific and clinical applications of magnetic carriers and gives a comprehensive overview of the state-of-the-art for anyone interested in learning about this rapidly evolving field of research and development. The editors hope it will also inspire the reader to join the effort and participate in the next conference, the 12th International Conference on Scientific and Clinical Applications of Magnetic Carriers in Copenhagen, Denmark, May 22–26, 2018. The editors of this special issue thank the contributing authors and the reviewers for their work in bringing this volume together.

Maciej Zborowski
On behalf of the co-editors and co-organizers,
Urs Häfeli
Silvio Dutz
Wolfgang Schütt