

Preface

This special issue of *Applied Organometallic Chemistry* is made of contributions from the Workshop on Nanoporous Materials and Magnetic Properties of Nanostructured Materials organized by the European Consortium of Nanostructured Materials (ECNM) on 19–20 September 1997 in Frascati (Italy). The ECNM was founded in April 1996 in order to promote contact between researchers working in this relatively young and truly interdisciplinary area. The chairman is Heinrich Hofmann from Lausanne, while Günter Schmid, Essen, looks after the workshops and seminars.

The field of nanostructured materials dates back to the times of Faraday and Ostwald. After a period of hibernation, it was rediscovered in the 1950s and attained its present character in the early 1980s; chemists had improved the synthetic methods and physicists provided a plethora of most powerful analytical tools that for the first time allowed comprehensive characterization of these materials. As the activities of this new scientific

community cover a broad field of chemistry, materials science, and physical analysis, it is very difficult to find just one keyword which could define the interests of all of the members. However, since most of the synthetic methods have an organometallic background and the sample preparation for physical characterization relies on conditions developed for the handling of organometallics, it seemed to us that *Applied Organometallic Chemistry* is the right journal for publication. Nevertheless, we have to thank John Wiley Publishers and Peter J. Craig as the Editor-in-Chief for a very liberal editorial policy. Both the journal and the ECNM would be glad if this special issue would encourage more authors to publish their results in this area in *AOC*.

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