

## Preface

In the past few years there has been a significant growth in the number of publications on one-step oxidation of alkanes to olefins and oxygenates over bulk mixed metal oxide catalysts. This recent interest is generated by the abundance and low cost of light alkanes and represents the shift in technology from petroleum-based alkane feedstocks to environmentally friendly natural gas-based alkanes.

At the Spring 2002 American Chemical Society Meeting in Orlando, FL, we co-chaired a symposium that concentrated on the topic of selective alkane oxidation. The success of this meeting prompted us to collect a series of papers on this topic presented at this meeting for publication in *Catalysis Today*, which led to this special issue. It should be noted that although it was not possible to include all laboratories working in the area of selective alkane oxidation around the world in this issue, it nevertheless gives a flavor of the research directions that are being pursued in this field in the US, Europe and Japan. The keynote addresses were given by Drs. Umit Ozkan, Walt Partenheimer, Mark Barteau, Julian Ross, John Gleaves, Jay Labinger, J.C. Vedrine, and Vadim Guliants. A number of papers were presented on the topic of the oxidative dehydrogenation of alkanes. Others presentations focused on new catalyst preparation methodologies and production of oxygenates. In all, there are nineteen

manuscripts in this collection, which we believe provide a timely contribution to this field.

This special issue would not have come about without the efforts of the contributing authors and the reviewers to ensure that all accepted papers meet the quality standards of *Catalysis Today*. The editors wish to thank the reviewers for their suggestions and the authors for their efforts in addressing the reviewers' comments. The editors hope that readers will benefit from these internationally drawn efforts in selective alkane oxidation.

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