

PREFACE

This issue of Catalysis Letters is dedicated to some of the papers presented during the 3-Day Symposium on "Fundamentals and Applications of Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis", which was part of the AIChE Spring National Meeting in Orlando, Florida on March 18–22, 1990.

While more than 75 years have passed since Fischer-Tropsch catalysis was first discovered, it continues to offer many scientific and technological challenges together with the promise of economically viable routes to non-petroleum based liquid fuels and chemicals. The topics covered in this symposium address a wide range of issues involving the surface key reaction intermediates, as well as an understanding of catalyst properties and structure-function relationships on reaction pathways. The importance of reaction environment and the influence of various reactor engineering concepts on process performance are also covered. A preview of technologies now under development is provided.

Current world events are once again providing a reminder of the strategic importance of alternative sources of liquid fuels and chemicals and the potential of Fischer-Tropsch catalysis in providing these resources. The body of work covered in this symposium demonstrates the progress being made in understanding key scientific and technological issues in this important area and in developing advanced process concepts for applications in coming years.

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