

The tradition of All-Polish Seminars on Mössbauer Spectroscopy goes back to the early 1960s. This year Seminar, organized by the Institute of Materials Science, the University of Silesia, was held on 6–9 June 2004 at Wisła, an attractive little town in the Beskid Mountains.

Professor Andrzej Hryniewicz, the *guru* of the Polish Mössbauer community, was the Honorary Chairman of the Seminar attended by forty six participants representing Mössbauer centres in Białystok, Częstochowa, Katowice, Kraków, Lublin, Poznań, Radom, Warszawa and Wrocław, who delivered thirty six lectures covering a broad field of different scientific investigations in which Mössbauer spectroscopy finds application.

The program of the Seminar was focused on the following topics: magnetic phases, nanomaterials, rare earth intermetallic compounds, and the methodology and calculation of hyperfine parameters from the first principle. A special session “New materials for magneto-electronics” was organized in cooperation with the Polish Scientific Network “New materials for magnoelectronics – MAG-EL-MAT” and its objective was to emphasise the practical aspects of the solid state physics. Consequently, the session was devoted entirely to the topics that are currently the focus of attention of the Network members such as, e.g.

those published in this volume, which focus on the properties of spin and lattice dynamics of doped colossal magnetoresistant perovskites and the structure defects of Fe-Al-based metallic powders with Ni, Cu or Cr additions obtained by self-decomposition. Other papers from that session contain results of calculation of the first principles of the isomer shift in selected alloys with B2 structure and the study of Mössbauer effect in Heusler-type compounds containing iron. The conference was a good occasion to establish some new contacts and add a number of new activities related to the broad spectrum of topics within the interest of MAG-EL-MAT members participating in the Seminar.

A number of lectures were devoted to interdisciplinary subjects such as geophysics, biophysics and material science. The conference ended with concluding remarks given by Professor Henryk Drulis.

We would like to express our thanks to all the participants of the Seminar, for interesting lectures, papers and valuable contributions.

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*Guest Editors*

