



MRSI Newsletter

*A quarterly publication of the Materials Research Society of India
for circulation amongst its members*

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From the Editors' Desk



With the highly successful organization of IUMRS-ICAM 2007 in Bangalore, MRSI earned great visibility and tremendous appreciation. With over 1100 delegates from 39 countries it was truly a mega event. The conference was rich in scientific content which could be ascertained from the active participation of a large number of scientists till the last day. A large number of our members have worked tirelessly for a considerable period for this event and they all deserve our compliments. A report on the IUMRS-ICAM 2007 appears in this issue.

Members might recall that we had written in the previous issue about the passing away of Prof. de Gennes, a well known condensed matter theorist and an Honorary member of MRSI. The present issue contains a note on the accomplishments of this great scientist written by Prof. Sriram Ramaswamy.

The 19th Annual general Meeting of MRSI will be held during 14-16 February 2008 at Thiruvananthapuram. Details of the meeting are getting finalized and will be available soon.

This issue also contains the list of MRSI award winners for the year 2008. They will receive the awards at the 19th AGM.



H L Bhat
R V Krishnan
T G Ramesh
Editors

For more details about the activities of MRSI, members are advised to visit the society's website at

www.igcar.ernet.in/mrsi

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The MRSI Newsletter is a quarterly update published by the Materials Research Society of India. Members are requested to contribute information of interest to Materials Science community. Members can inform through the Newsletter, recognitions/awards received by them, changes in address, forthcoming events, and any interesting scientific/technological developments in the area of materials. The relevant information should be sent to the following address:

Editors

MRSI Newsletter

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Awards & Distinctions Conferred on Members



We are happy to report that the following members of Materials Research Society of India have received awards and distinctions shown against their names. MRSI congratulates them.

V S Arunachalam	Life time Achievement Award, Indian Institute of Metals - 2007
Baldev Raj	National Metallurgist Award, Indian Institute of Metals - 2007
K T Jacob	Syed Husain Zaheer Medal, Indian National Science Academy - 2007
M K Surappa	Fellow, Indian National Academy of Engineering - 2007
G K Dey	Fellow, Indian National Academy of Engineering - 2007
B S Murty	Fellow, Indian National Academy of Engineering - 2007
M Vijayalakshmi	Metallurgist of the year Award, Indian Institute of Metals - 2007
Rabibrata Mukherjee	CSIR Young Scientist Award - 2007

P.S: Members are requested to communicate to the Editorial office about the Awards, Honours and Distinctions they have received from various agencies.

MRSI Awards for 2008

The MRSI awards and Prizes for the year 2008 have been announced. The awardees will deliver lectures at the 19th AGM of MRSI to be held at Thiruvananthapuram during February 14-16, 2008.

Distinguished Materials Scientist of the Year Award

Dr. S Banerjee, BARC, Mumbai

MRSI-ICSC Superconductivity & Materials Science Senior Award

Dr. J V Yakhmi, BARC, Mumbai

MRSI-ICSC Superconductivity & Materials Science Annual Prizes

Prof. K S Narayan, JNCASR, Bangalore
Prof. Ram Gopal Rao, IIT, Mumbai

MRSI Medal Awardees

Dr. Amalnerkar D P, C-MET, Pune

Dr. Chattopadhyay A, IIT, Guwahati

Dr. Ashok Kumar Ray, NML, Jamshedpur

Dr. Dilshad Akhtar, DMRL, Hyderabad

Dr. Kotnala R K, NPL, New Delhi

Dr. Mohapatra Y N, IIT-Kanpur

Prof. Mukhopadhyay N K, BHU, Varanasi

Dr. Ray S K, IIT, Kharagpur

Dr. Sujatha Devi P, CGCRI, Kolkata

Dr. Suresh Das, RRL, Thiruvananthapuram

Dr. Tyagi A K, IGCAR, Kalpakkam

Dr. Yusuf S M, BARC, Mumbai

OBITUARY

Prof. P G De Gennes

With the passing away of Pierre-Gilles de Gennes on 18 May this year we have lost an extraordinary talent, a seemingly inexhaustible source of brilliant new ideas, an inspiring personality, and a good friend. The best way to mourn his death is to ask what lessons we can draw from his life in science. Students wanting to grow up to be theoretical physicists should pay particular attention, because the way de Gennes did physics is probably precisely the way you are not taught to do it. (1) Phenomena and experiments come first, intuitive theory next, formal theory last. Look for puzzles in the world around you, or in the findings of experimenters in their labs, and see if you can understand these theoretically; (2) Use what you learn in one area when you are trying to understand another: analogy is a powerful tool; (3) Abandon artificial distinctions between pure and applied science or engineering; (4) Stay connected to basic physics all your life by teaching it. De Gennes took the complex, messy and real and showed that we could study and understand its properties using the methods of theoretical physics and mathematics. I hope my remarks below bring this out.

Pierre-Gilles de Gennes was born on 24 October 1932 in Paris; his mother was a nurse and his father a doctor. Educated at home upto the age of 12, he graduated in physics from the elite Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, and took his doctorate in 1957 while a research engineer in the French Atomic Energy Commission, working on magnetic neutron scattering. His mentors in those formative years included Anatole Abragam and Jacques Friedel. He spent 1959 as a postdoctoral visitor with Charles Kittel at Berkeley and, after serving in the French Navy for 27 months, took up a professorship at the University of Paris at Orsay in 1961. In 1971 he was named professor in the prestigious Collège de France, and from 1976 to 2002 he was Director of the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles, where the Curies had done their great work. In 1991 he was awarded the Nobel Prize “for discovering that methods developed for studying order phenomena in simple systems can be generalized to more complex forms of matter, in particular to liquid crystals and polymers”, to quote the citation by the Nobel committee. In 2002 he moved to the Institut Curie, where he brought his genius to bear on problems of cell adhesion and memory, and worked on these and other problems until the end.

His research career spanned so many areas it takes your breath away: solid-state physics, especially magnetism and superconductivity; the dynamics of liquids; liquid crystals; polymers, colloids and interfaces; microemulsions and membranes spreading (including fungicide on wine grapes), wetting, dewetting, adhesion, self-propelled drops; granular matter; artificial muscle, cell biology, the growth cone of neurons, the connectivity of neuronal nets, and memory. Especially after he made the transition to the area we now call the physics of soft matter, a term he invented and a field he created, PGG specialised in cutting through inessential detail to discover the heart of the matter, in systems too messy for conventional physicists. I should emphasise that, while he seemed totally intuitive in his approach using pictorial concepts like blobs, tubes, brushes, mushrooms and reptation, he was completely at home with the most advanced theoretical and mathematical ideas.

Pierre-Gilles de Gennes was a towering influence on a generation of scientists. His many outstanding students and collaborators continue the fine tradition he created, of a science not “broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls”, an emphasis on physical phenomena, not formalism. He was a dedicated educationist: he introduced many innovations, such as courses in biology as well as new research directions, at ESPCI, the institute he directed from 1976 to 2002. After getting the Nobel Prize, he toured and lectured at over 150 high schools to popularise science. He argued strongly for practical experience, such as internship in an industry, as a vital part of higher education. His was an exciting personality, with a ready wit, a literary flair and a real talent for sketching. At a workshop we organized last year at Trieste, he was up till all hours despite his ill health, interacting over many glasses of wine with all the participants. He was a very good listener, as anyone who has talked science with him can attest. Prof. de Gennes was an Honorary member of MRSI.

With all this, the spontaneous outpouring of sorrow and sense of loss in the scientific community in France and worldwide is no surprise. We will not see the likes of Pierre-Gilles de Gennes again.



Pierre Gilles de Gennes with Ranjini Bandyopadhyay, Sharath Ananthamurthy, K Vijay Kumar and Rajesh Ganapathy at the workshop on ‘Driven states in soft and Biological Matter’ ICTP, Trieste 2006

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REPORT ON THE IUMRS-ICAM 2007 **HELD AT BANGALORE DURING 8-13 OCTOBER 2007**



The 2007 International Conference on Advanced Materials (IUMRS-ICAM) was held during October 8-13, 2007, in Bangalore, India. The conference included plenary talks, oral and poster presentations covering most current critical topics in materials science, and various special activities. The conference attendance was around 1100. The conference was organized by MRSI.

The technical sessions included 23 theme symposia covering intelligent materials, MEMS, nanomaterials, soft matter, spintronics, optoelectronics, biomaterials, sensors, catalysis, novel synthesis, microscopy characterization, computational materials science and materials education. Other topics covered include organic, photonic, polymer, magnetic, multilayered, composite, hybrid, structural and energy materials. An industrial exhibit was also held in conjunction with the conference.

The inaugural session on the morning of October 8th 2007 jump-started the events of ICAM 2007. After a traditional invocation and the lighting of a ceremonial lamp, the welcome address was delivered by Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, President of MRSI. Prof. S.B. Krupanidhi, general secretary of MRSI and chair of the conference, then welcomed everyone and explained the programme of the conference. He mentioned that over 1000 attendees from 39 countries were participating in the conference. He also gave a brief overview of MRSI and its rapid growth with the current membership of over 2000. He also indicated that MRSI is currently one of the most active and vibrant scientific associations in India. Prof. Howard Katz (Johns Hopkins Univ., USA) who is the first vice president of IUMRS then gave a welcome statement on behalf of IUMRS. He was followed by Prof. R.P.H. Chang (Northwestern Univ., USA), general secretary of IUMRS, who also welcomed everyone and thanked MRSI for conducting the ICAM 2007 meeting. Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Founder President of MRSI, then gave the inaugural address in which he drew parallels between growth and success of materials science and engineering. Prof. P. Balaram, Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, which is one of the sponsors and backers of the conference then gave the presidential remarks and extended an invitation for everyone to visit the Institute campus. Finally, a formal vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. K.T. Jacob, vice-chair of the conference.

There were six plenary lectures at this conference. The first plenary lecture of the meeting was presented by Prof. C.N.R. Rao (Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research, India) on his involvement with oxide materials for about five decades beginning with his Ph D research work. He narrated some of the outstanding research pertaining to the oxide materials and the various attractive properties exhibited by them. He made a mention of the special properties observed at the nano regime. In the second Plenary lecture, Professor Denis Fichou of CEA-Saclay, Labo Nanostructures et Semi-Conducteurs Organiques, Gif-sur-Yvette, France, described the self-assembly of functional organic molecules on atomically flat surfaces, which could be a major technique in the development of “molecular nanoelectronics” for future electronic devices. Daisuke Fujita, Managing Director for the Advanced nano Characterization Centre, NIMS, Tsukuba, Japan gave the third Plenary lecture in which he outlined the salient features of the third S & T basic plan of Japan which places emphasis on R & D for policy oriented subjects that address national and social issues. He also highlighted the importance of networking of scientists and facilities. In the fourth Plenary lecture, Michele Parrinello (ETH, USI campus, Lugano, Switzerland) stated that *Ab-initio* molecular dynamics (MD) simulations based on empirical potentials are widely used in materials science today. However, there are limitations in the technique. The current challenge in MD is to overcome these limitations. He showed several examples wherein the use of novel techniques increases the efficiency and allows much larger time and length scales than previously thought possible. In his Plenary lecture, Fred Wudl of the Departments of Chemistry and Materials, University of California, Santa Barbara, described the progress that has been made in the development of organic semiconductors’ ability to emit light and for those same semiconductors to act as photovoltaic devices. He also discussed the challenges in the design and synthesis of molecules for application in organic electronics. Prof. Jacques Livage, of the Collège de France Paris, in his Plenary lecture, described the properties of the vanadium pentoxide gels and indicated some of the challenging applications to which these can be used. Livage also focused on the synthesis of nanostructured materials using the vanadium oxide gels through solution chemistry. These include nanoribbons, nanowires, nanobelts, foams etc.

The 23 theme symposia were conducted in a maximum of 14 parallel sessions and ran concurrently. The chairs and co-chairs of the theme symposia had arranged excellent set of overview and invited lectures. Many of the contributed papers were in the form of oral presentations. The rest of them were presented as posters distributed evenly in three poster sessions held on 9th, 11th and 12th. The proceedings of some of the theme symposia are likely to be published in selected refereed journals. Amongst the posters the following 18 were selected for the best poster awards.

1. **(C - Poster-15) Effect of Crystallographic Orientation on Texture and Optical Properties of Room Temperature Deposited Nanocrystalline V_2O_5 Thin Films**
Preetam Singh, and Davinder Kaur
Department of Physics & Center of Nanotechnology, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, India
2. **(C - Poster-18) Morphotropic Phase Boundary Like Characteristic in A Lead-free, and Non- Ferroelectric System $(1-x)NaNbO_3-xCaTiO_3$**
Saurabh Tripathi¹, Rajeev Ranjan¹, Dhananjai Pandey¹, Sanjay Kumar Mishra² and P.S.R. Krishna²
¹*School of Materials Science and Technology, Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi - 221005, India*
²*Solid State Physics Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai - 400085, India*
3. **(D - Poster-17) Self Assembly of Supramolecular Nanostructure from Novel Triphenylene Oligomers**
Subbiah Jegadesan, Sindhu Swaminathan and Suresh Valiyaveetil
Department of Chemistry, NUS - Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Initiative, National University of Singapore, 3 Science Drive 3, Singapore 117543, Email : chmsubbi@nus.edu.sg.
4. **(E-Poster-12) Pulsed Laser Deposition of Epitaxial CrN Films on (100) MgO**
Gyanendra Singh, Navneet K. Pandey and R.C. Budhani
Condensed Matter Low Dimensional Systems Laboratory, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur-208016, India
5. **(E-Poster-48) Process Dependent Magnetic Properties of Co-Doped ZnO**
Sayak Ghoshal and P.S. Anil Kumar
Spintronics and Thin Film Magnetism Lab, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-560012, India.
6. **(J - Poster -15) Zinc Oxide Thin Film Gas Sensors deposited by Nebulised Spray Pyrolysis**
Ujwala Ail and A.M. Umarji
Materials Research Centre, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012, India
7. **(L-Poster-06) The Magnetron Sputtered Co/Cu Multilayer Films with Ultrathin Co Layer : Multilayers or Alloy?**
D.L. Khalyapin¹, P.D. Kim¹, I.A. Turpanov¹, A.Ya. Betenkova¹, T.N. Isaeva¹, M.M. Karpenko¹, J. Kim², I. Kim³
¹*Kirensky Institute of Physics of SB RAS, Krasnoyarsk 660036, Russia*
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³*eMD Lab., Central R&D Institute, Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co., LTD., Suwon 443-743, Korea*
8. **(L-Poster-12) Strained Epitaxial Artificial Multiferroic Heterostructures**
Ayan Roy Chaudhuri and S.B. Krupanidhi
Materials Research Center, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, 560 012, India
9. **(N-Poster-19) Study of Induced n⁺-p-p⁺ Junction Structures Made on Single and Multi-Crystalline p-type Silicon using Impedance Spectroscopy**
Sanjai Kumar, R Srivastava, G S Chilana¹, P K Singh
National Physical Laboratory, Dr. K S Krishnan Road, New Delhi 110 01, India
¹*Physics Department, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, Delhi 110 007, India*
10. **(O-Poster-14) Preparation and Microwave Absorption Properties of Co₂U Hexaferrite-Rubber Composite**
S. M. Abbas^{1,2}, R. Chatterjee², A. K. Dixit¹, and T.C. Goel³
¹*DMSRDE, G. T. Road, Kanpur - 208013, India.*
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³*BITS, Pilani -Goa Campus, Zuari Nagar, Goa - 403726, India*
11. **(P - Poster- 15) Effect of Mn and Zr Multiple Addition on Microstructure of P/M 7000 Series Aluminum Alloy**
Y . Yamamoto, H. Machi, Y. Morimoto, K. Osamura, J. Kusui
Email : y.yamamoto1205@yahoo.co.jp

12. **(Q-Poster-08) Interface Structure, Magnetism, and Electronic States of Fe/Co Multilayers**
S. Assa Aravindh, S. Mathi Jaya, M.C. Valsakumar, H.K. Sahu and C.S. Sundar
Materials Science Division, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam 603102, India.
13. **(S- Poster- 25) Role of Surface Charge Characterization on the Processing of Nano Ceramics**
R. Ramachandra Rao and H. N. Roopa
Materials Science Division, National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore 560 017, India
Email : rrrao@css.nal.res.in, rayasarao1963@yahoo.com
14. **(U-Poster-19) Titania Coating on Calcium Aluminum Silicate Beads Under Hydrothermal Conditions for the Degradation of Toxic Organics**
T. Rungnapa, S. Pakamard, H.P. Shivaraju¹, C.P. Sajan¹, C. Ranganathaiah², S. Ananda³ and K. Byrappa¹
National Metal and Materials Technology Centre, MTEC, 14 Thailand Science Park, Paholyothin Rd., Klong 1, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120 Thailand
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²*DOS in Physics, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore 570 006, India*
³*DOS in Chemistry, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore 570 006, India*
15. **(U-Poster-44) Synthesis of Metal Nanoparticles Via Nanoparticle Assemblies**
Yutaka Kuwahara¹, Minoru Morita¹, Hiroaki Endo¹, Keishiro Yoshimori¹, Tomohito Nagami², Kaoru Kumamaru¹, Tomoki Iwanaga¹, Tsuyoshi Sawada¹, Mitsuru Sasaki¹, Sunao Yamada³ and Motonobu Goto¹
¹*Department of Applied Chemistry and Biochemistry, Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University, 2-39-1, Kurokami, Kumamoto, Japan 860-8555*
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³*Department of Applied Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyushu University, Moto-oka, Fukuoka, Japan 819-0395*
16. **(U-Poster-55) Synthesis of Ga₂O₃ Nanorods from Molten Gallium**
S.C. Vanithakumari, G.K. Goswami and K.K. Nanda
Materials Research Centre, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012, India
17. **(V-Poster-10) Electrostatic Nanolithography of PVP Films for Patterning Metal Nanoparticles and Fullerenes**
T. Vijaykumar, G.U. Kulkarni
DST unit on Nanoscience, Chemistry and Physics of Materials unit, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Jakkur, Bangalore, India.
18. **(V-Poster-22) Magnetoconductance in Single-Wall Carbon Nanotubes: Electron-Electron Interaction and Weak Localization Contributions**
Paramita Kar Choudhury, Reghu Menon
Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012, India

In a special session in the afternoon of 8th the 2007 Sômiya Award for International Collaboration in Materials Research was awarded to a U.S./Belgium research team led by Prof. Ivan K. Schuller of the University of California, San Diego and Prof. Yvan Bruynseraede of the Catholic University of Leuven for their investigation of “Structure and Physical Properties of Superconducting and Magnetic Nanostructures”. Typically the winners of the award present their work at this session. Both winners could not be present at the meeting. However, Schuller was able to record his presentation on DVD which was shown at the session. He gave an excellent talk discussing the work done in conjunction with Bruynseraede on metallic superlattices (giant magnetoresistance and roughness), low and high T_c superconductors (dimensional transitions) and vortex physics (collective pinning). In addition to the science involved, Schuller talked about how such collaborations could work and succeed on an international scale.

The conference banquet was held in the evening of Tuesday accompanied by live Indian music. At the conference banquet, Prof. R.P.H. Chang on behalf of the International Union of Materials Research Societies (IUMRS) recognized MRSI and Prof. Krupanidhi, the Chair of ICAM 2007, for organizing this excellent conference. A colourful cultural evening held on the first day gave a glimpse of the rich traditions of the region.

The 2007 International Conference on Advanced Materials (IUMRS-ICAM) concluded on Saturday, October 13, after six days of scientific deliberations and various special activities. The final event was a valedictory address by the meeting Chair, Prof. Krupanidhi, who thanked all the individuals responsible for organizing the conference.

MRSI-AGM 2008

The 19th AGM of MRSI will be held at Achuta Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram during 14-16 February 2008. The AGM would include Medal Lectures, MRSI Honour Lectures and MRSI-ICSC Award Lectures along with the contributed poster papers covering the latest work of materials science community of the country. MRSI-AGM would also include a theme symposium on *Materials for Hostile Environments*. The MRSI-AGM will take stock of the latest developments in the field of materials worldwide and within the country as well as to formulate guidelines for further research and development in the country.

The first announcement of the 19th AGM was released in September itself. Members of MRSI and other scientists/technologists/students are encouraged to send abstracts of contributed papers to: The 19th MRSI AGM Secretariat, Biomedical Technology Wing, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram 695 012, Tel: 0471-252021 /2520201 /2520214, Fax: 0471-2341814, Email: mrsiagm@gmail.com .

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Enrolled between August 1 and October 31, 2007

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(DEC 2007 - JUNE 2008)

December 22-23, 2007, National Conference on Physics of Semiconductor Devices and Smart Materials (NC-PSDSM-07) Dr. V B Pujari, Convenor NC-PSDSM-07, Department of Physics, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil College, Vashi, Navi Mumbai 400 703 Tel Nos: 9969021824/9869000294/022-27661210, Email: kbp_psdsm@yahoo.co.in

January 7-8, 2008, National Conference on Advanced Materials for Aerospace and Defence Applications, Prof. R Subba Rao, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Ettimadai, Coimbatore, Website: www.amrita.edu/amada

January 8-11, 2008, International Workshop on Porous Ceramics and 71st Annual Session of India Ceramic Society. For further details refer the website: www.procer-2008.com or contact Dr. L N Satapathy, Manager, Ceramic Technological Institute, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, IISc Post, Bangalore 560 012, Tel: 080-22182403, Fax: 080-23344231, Email: satpathy@bhelepd.com

February 4-5, 2008, National Seminar on Advances in Materials Science (NSAMS-2008), Dr. D Pathinettam Padiyan, Convenor, NSAMS-2008, Department of Physics, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli 627 012, Email: nsams2@yahoo.co.in, Website: www.msumucie.org/conferences/physics/index.php

February 14-16, 2008, 19th Annual General Meeting of MRSI, Dr. G S Bhuvaneshwar, Chairman, MRSI AGM 2008 Biomedical Technology Wing, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram 695 012, Fax: 0471-2341814, Email: mrsiagm@gmail.com

February 17-21, 2008, POLYCHAR' 16, World Forum on Advanced Materials preceded by one day workshop on polymer characterization and one day preconference mini symposium on greener routes to polymer synthesis, Dr. Poonam Tandon, Executive Secretary-cum-Treasurer, POLYCHAR 16, Physics Department, University of Lucknow, Lucknow-226 007, Tel : 0091-522-2740840, Fax : 0091-522-2740840; Email : contact@polychar16.com

May 28-30, 2008, International Conference on BioMedical Engineering and Informatics 2008 (BMEI 2008), Sanya, Hainan, China, Email: bmei2008@hainu.edu.cn, Website : http://www.hainu.edu.cn/BMEI2008

June 26-28, 2008, International Conference on Aerospace Science and Technology, Dr. M N Sathyanarayana, Convenor, for more details refer to the website www.nal.res.in/nal50/incast

Members are requested to give information about the conferences/symposia/workshops they are organizing well in advance so that the same can be inserted in the "calendar of events".

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