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## Preface: Nanoinnovation 2020 FREE

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## Preface: Nanoinnovation 2020

In the era of the SARS-CoV-2, when many social events have been cancelled or postponed, the organization of a congress could almost seem a mission impossible. However, the Organizing Committee decided not to give up and, despite the obvious difficulties and limitations due to the pandemic, *NanoInnovation 2020 - Conference and Exhibition* was held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in the Renaissance Cloister by Giuliano da Sangallo of the Faculty of Civil and Industrial Engineering of SAPIENZA University of Rome (Italy). In order to guarantee a large participation, the event was held in double way, i.e. both online and in presence. The possibility to attend the conference remotely and the joint efforts of the organizers, NanoItaly Association & AIRI, and the 26 Co-organizers allowed the participation of more than 1210 online registered people and, on the whole, a total amount of more than 3400 presences, 400 speakers and chairs, 9 exhibitors, 15 industrial supporters, 3 institutional partners and 5 International Official Delegations (Russia, Israel, Poland, Lithuania and Czech Republic) coordinated and supported by the Italian Trade Agency. Overall, the event included 2 plenary sessions, 55 technical thematic symposia, a poster session with 73 participants, 5 multi-sessions workshops, 1 workshop dedicated to “Open Innovation and Open Science”, 2 schools, 1 update training for engineers, 1 round table, 5 satellite events and 89 registered participants to B2B meetings with 52 organized meetings, special networking occasions jointly organized with APRE- Agency for the Promotion of European Research. Moreover, in collaboration with Laboratorio NEST of Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa, Italy) it was possible to offer the NEST Prize for young researchers. The above stated numbers clearly indicate that even in the present socio-sanitary conditions, the technical-scientific community involved in the field of nanotechnology is highly proactive, willing to share the results and yearning to improve the knowledge.

The present issue of AIP Conference Proceedings is a collection of 19 papers comprising selected contributions presented during *NanoInnovation 2020 - Conference and Exhibition*. The papers deal with different topics addressed during the conference, nicely representing the state of art and the outlook of nanoscience and related technology. As such, the readers can have an overview of effective synthetic methods of some of the most popular nanomaterials like metallic nanoparticles, thin inorganic films, nanostructured organic polymers, composite nanomaterials. Moreover, the use of advanced spectroscopic and microscopic characterization techniques at the nanoscale is described. A conspicuous number of the papers focuses on applications, ranging from biomedicine to sensing, from electronic and semiconductors to energy production and storage, from catalysis to cultural heritage, also describing development programmes and facilities of international relevance, which can take advantage from the use of nanomaterials. Finally, considering the growing importance of nanotechnology in everyday life, special attention is paid to knowledge diffusion, networking and patentability.

The Editors are grateful to all the Authors who contributed to the success of both the conference and the present issue, and to the Reviewers who supported our work with valuable competence.

Marco Rossi  
Vittorio Morandi  
Daniele Passeri  
Francesca A. Scaramuzzo  
Marco Vittori Antisari