Guest editor preface for the issue dedicated to the INFN-LNF conference on nanoscience and nanotechnology



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The NEXT Nanotechnology group at the Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati (LNF) of INFN (the Italian Institute for Nuclear Physics) organizes since 2000 a series of international meetings in the area of nanoscience, a fast growing research field which has attracted increasing attention since many years, especially for many promising nanotechnological applications. The conferences in 2013 and 2014 held under the patronage of INFN, with the generous sponsorship by Flamar, Gambetti Vacuum Technology and Related Solutions, Ionvac Process, at LNF (see http://www.lnf.infn.it/conference/nn2013/, http://www.lnf.infn.it/conference/nn2014/), consisted of a number of tutorial/keynote lectures, as well as research talks presenting frontier nanoscience research developments and innovative nanotechnologies in the areas of biology, medicine, aerospace, optoelectronics, energy, materials and characterizations, low-dimensional nanostructures and devices.

Such yearly meetings took place earlier within the Nanotubes & Nanostructures (N&N) School and Workshop series, including a conference in Cagliari in 2000 and conferences in Frascati from 2001–2004.

More recently, the focus has shifted from the study of nanomaterials to the, by now, mature field of nanoscience and the corresponding innovative technologies in the most promising fields of application, hence yielding the Nanoscience & Nanotechnology (N&N) series.

Selected, refereed research papers, based on conference original presentations and follow-up discussions, are published in this special issue of CMNT in the division *Nanoscience and Nanotechnology*.

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