

MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

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The Institute of Metals and Technology, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and the Department for Orthopaedic Surgery of the University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Slovenia, started intensive cooperation in the research field of biocompatible materials and bio-interphases in 2016, and at that time a special session, as the First Symposium on Biomaterials in the frame of 25th International Conference on Materials and Technology, was organized. The session attracted Slovenian and worldwide-recognized experts from materials science as well as orthopaedic and dental clinicians and researchers. In 2019, the 3rd International Symposium on Biomaterials was organized (3ISB). The symposium had an interesting program and an international forum for the presentation and discussion of cutting-edge research related to the interactions of biological systems with engineered, synthetic, and natural materials.

The experts, scientists, researchers, and clinicians from the Faculty of Medicine, University Medical Centre, Ljubljana and Maribor, MD-RI Institute for Materials Research in Medicine Ljubljana, MD Medicina Ljubljana and the Institute of Metals and Technology promoted the very unique collaboration among different specialties involved in many research fields with a very strong aim to bring contemporary knowledge in the field of biotechnology and biomaterials technology for the high quality standards of treatment to our patients. It was an excellent occasion to meet, to listen, and to discuss, to share knowledge and bring together inspired biomaterials researchers. That knowledge is presented in the Abstract booklet of the Symposium. The young researchers were particularly welcomed and we facilitated interactions with prominent senior investigators in the field, as well as scientists from leading biomedical institutions.

The Symposium provided a forum to exchange scientific ideas, inspire new research, and develop new contacts for closer collaboration, so that we can, together, define the future for our young and growing researchers who are today's reality and tomorrow's future.

The Biomaterials 2019 symposium was a platform for filling the gap between academia and industry through discussion on innovative research methods in biomaterials and medicine science.

Biomaterials as a field has seen steady growth over its approximately half-century of existence and uses ideas from medicine, biology, chemistry, materials science and engineering.

Because of the enormous success of the international symposium it was decided to publish the results of our common projects in an issue of the Materials and Technology scientific journal dedicated to biomaterials.

We are very excited that the biomaterials issue brings together 8 papers and we are looking forward to publishing each year one issue of MIT including papers dedicated to biomaterials.

In memoriam to the respected Slovenian spinal surgeon an obituary of the respected Dr Matevž Gorenšek, MD, who died on August 6, 2020 is included. The 4ISB dedicated to Dr. Matevž Gorenšek will be held as a hybrid symposium on April 16, 2021 at the Department for Orthopaedic Surgery of the University Medical Centre in Ljubljana under the endorsement of Slovenian Medical Chamber and IUUSTA.

Drago Dolinar,
Guest editor for the section dedicated to biomaterials