

## Foreword by the Chair of ECerS XII

Ceramics have for several millennia served mankind with useful materials. Today, ceramic science is a well-established academic discipline and ceramic materials are used in a multitude of applications that utilise the unique combinations of functional, thermal, chemical and mechanical properties. The biannual, 12th Conference of the European Ceramic Society, ECerS XII, held in June 2011 in Stockholm, Sweden, was attended by almost 1000 academic researchers, students and industrialists. The almost 900 oral and poster presentations given during four intense days in the capital of Sweden addressed recent findings related to all fields of ceramics. In particular, challenges related to the development of new technologies with a significantly smaller environmental footprint and sustainable and environmentally benign manufacturing processes was highlighted in the plenary session and many of the topical symposia and general theme sessions. The conference was organised jointly by Stockholm University, the Swedish Society for Materials Technology and the Swedish Chemical Society and was generously sponsored by, e.g. the Nobel Committee of Chemistry and Physics, Royal

Academy of Sciences, the JECS Trust, and the Swedish Science Council.

This Special Issue is a result of the efforts of the Senior Editor of the *Journal of the European Ceramic Society* and the symposia chairs and co-chairs, and the willingness of the selected authors to contribute with their latest work to highlight the development in the fields of Advanced Ceramics and Ceramic Processes for Dentistry; Bioceramics; Silicates, Refractories, Cements and Traditional Ceramics; and Transparent Ceramics. The Special Issue also contains the paper of the JECS Trust Prize Lecture which was given by Professor Kevin Kendall.

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