

PROF. DR. GERHARD ONDRACEK

On May 22nd Professor Dr Gerhard Ondracek died in a car crash in Germany. He was 60 years old. Until January 1995 he was Head of the Institut für Gesteinhüttenkunde, Aachen University of Technology (RWTH), a well-known scientific center in the field of ceramics, refractories, glass and cement. At the beginning of this year he was appointed as Head of a new Materials Science Institute, Institut für Materialwissenschaft, at the Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena, where he was actively contributing to the integration of the materials research communities of the west and the east of Germany.

Over the last 30 years G. Ondracek has been known throughout the world especially for his contributions to the understanding of the microstructure-property interactions in glass and ceramic composite materials, having pioneered the use of stereology with that aim. His professional activities have covered the wide spectrum of contemporaneous scientific branches in materials science, including composite and porous materials, advanced technical ceramics, ceramic and glass containers for nuclear waste disposal, biomaterials and new concepts for materials recycling. He was a member of the German Scientific Council and since 1989 he was scientific coordinator of European project EUREKA N° 294. His international reputation includes also visiting professorships in Argentina and Brazil and coordination of several materials research projects involving east European countries, such as Poland, Ukraine and Macedonia. He has also served in the scientific board of several international journals including ACTA STEREOLOGICA, Journal of Nuclear Materials and Ceramica Acta. Professor Ondracek was co-founder of

ACTA STEREOLOGICA and the first chairman of the International Advisory Board. With his death the materials research community, which has largely accepted and appreciated his scientific achievements, has lost one of its major figures. Gerhard Ondracek will be sorely missed by all who knew him and had the pleasure of being his colleagues, students and friends.

Dr. Aldo R Boccaccini
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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

2nd International Conference on "Fractal in Biology and Medicine"

March 6 - 9, 1996, Ascona - Locarno, Switzerland

The 2nd Conference is going to explore the new concept of fractal geometry and its potential for understanding structural designs, metabolic functions and pathological changes in biological tissues. For more information, contact: Gabriele A. Losa, Lab. Patologia Cellulare, Institute of Pathology, CH-6600 Locarno, Switzerland, Fax: 00041-93-328691, E-mail: glosa@guest.cscs.ch.

3rd Conference Life Sciences 1996

September 21 - 26, 1996, Gozd Martuljek, Slovenia

Life Sciences 1996 will deal with the following topics: quantitative image analysis, MR imaging, quantitative pathology, membranes, immune system, molecular biology, molecular genetics and genetics therapy, neurobiology of the central nervous system and skeletal muscle. The leading theme of all topics is image analysis. Contact: Dr. Ida Eržen, Society for Stereology and Quantitative Image Analysis, Institute of Anatomy, Medical Faculty, 61105 Ljubljana, Slovenia, Tel.: +386-61/446-051, -/1403-042, Fax: +386-61-1403-326, E-mail: ida.erzen@mf.uni-lj.si.