



Functional Granular Films and Coatings: Synthesis, Properties and Applications

Guest Editors:

Dr. Alex Trukhanov

Scientific Practical Materials
Research Centre, NAS of Belarus,
220072 Minsk, Belarus

Dr. Tatiana Zubar

Scientific-Practical Materials
Research Centre of National
Academy of Sciences of Belarus,
220072 Minsk, Belarus

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Message from the Guest Editors

Functional films and coatings can modify the surface of a material or device and impart unique and sometimes unexpected properties to it. Because of this, they attract great interest both in terms of basic research there and for practical applications in a variety of fields, such as biology, energy, the environment, etc. With the development of science and engineering, it becomes necessary to improve the functional properties of existing materials, as well as to develop new unique materials with specified characteristics. The functional properties of a material can be controlled by influencing the microstructure including granularity formed during the synthesis. It is known that a change in the size of grains can lead to a significant change in material properties and even the appearance of new anomalous phenomena. Comprehensive studies of the correlation between synthesis conditions, structure, and functional properties of granular films and coatings can be the impetus for the development of materials science and many areas of industry.





Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Wei Pan

State Key Laboratory of New
Ceramics and Fine Processing,
School of Materials Science &
Engineering, Tsinghua University,
Beijing 100084, China

Dr. Emerson Coy

NanoBioMedical Centre, Adam
Mickiewicz University in Poznań,
ul. Wszechnicy Piastowskiej 3, 61-
614 Poznań, Poland

Message from the Editorial Board

Now more than ever, research is asked to deliver knowledge and technologies to solve the major challenges faced by our society. The development of new materials and devices for (without the ambition to be exhaustive) energy, health and food technology, together with the need for establishing processes that reduce the impact on critical resources and the environment, is indeed in the spotlight of most contemporary research. Surface science and engineering play a key role in this regard, with an incredible potential in delivering new and deep scientific understanding and technical solutions essential to solve most of the major societal challenges.

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Coatings Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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