



Research on Metallofullerenes

Guest Editors:

Dr. Filip Uhlík

Prof. Dr. Takeshi Akasaka

Prof. Dr. Zdenek Slanina

Prof. Dr. Xing Lu

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The 40th anniversary of the first experimental observation of fullerenes in a laser-vaporized graphite cluster beam mass spectrum, made by H. W. Kroto, J. R. Heath, S. C. O'Brien, R. F. Curl, and R. E. Smalley (DOI:10.1038/318162a0), is approaching. It will be the anniversary not only for fullerenes and buckminsterfullerene in particular, but also for the first endohedral metallofullerene observed, La@C60, just a few days later (DOI:10.1021/ja00311a102). There was tremendous progress in the field since then documented by tens of thousands of publications: The production of fullerenes in macroscopic quantities, i.e., hundreds of observed and isolated new species, has influenced their characterization both experimentally and theoretically, reaching various applications as MRI and X-ray contrast agents, radiotracers, photovoltaic cells, nanoelectronics, superconductors, and others.

The field of metallofullerene research is on the top with hundreds of new publications each year; in this Special Issue on Metallofullerenes in *Inorganics*, on the chemical and physical properties of metallofullerenes, studied both experimentally and theoretically, is thus very timely.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Duncan H. Gregory
School of Chemistry, University of
Glasgow, University Avenue,
Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Inorganics Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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