

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Thin Solid Films



journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/tsf

Preface to the proceedings of the 9th conference on spectroscopic ellipsometry (ICSE-9)

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ARTICLE INFO	A B S T R A C T
<i>Keywords:</i> Preface Spectroscopic Ellipsometry Paul Drude Award	The 9th International Conference on Spectroscopic Ellipsometry (ICSE-9) was held in Beijing, China from May 22nd to 28th, 2022. This special issue of <i>Thin Solid Films</i> collects 38 peer-reviewed articles that were presented at ICSE-9. These articles are expected to inspire the scientific community of spectroscopic ellipsometry and related fields.

This special issue of *Thin Solid Films* covers the presentations at the 9th International Conference on Spectroscopic Ellipsometry (ICSE-9), which was held in Beijing, China from May 22nd to 28th, 2022. Due to the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ICSE-9 had to be a fully online event. ICSE-9 continued the well-established ICSE series (ICSE-1, Paris, France, 1993; ICSE-2, Charleston, USA, 1997; ICSE-3, Vienna, Australia, 2003; ICSE-4, Stockholm, Sweden, 2007; ICSE-5, Albany, USA, 2010; ICSE-6, Kyoto, Japan, 2013; ICSE-7, Berlin, Germany, 2016; ICSE-8, Barcelona, Spain, 2019) as the largest and best-known international conference on spectroscopic ellipsometry and related techniques, which provided an excellent forum for scientists and engineers to communicate the developments in the related fields.

The scientific topics of ICSE-9 included: 1. Advanced Materials; 2. Anisotropic and Ferroelectric Materials; 3. Bio-Related Applications; 4. Environmental and Energy Applications; 5. Imaging Ellipsometry and Process Monitoring; 6. Material Process and Phase Transition; 7. Microstructural Analysis; 8. Mueller-Matrix Ellipsometry; 9. New Instrumental Developments; 10. Optical and Electronic Applications; 11. Optical Modeling and Data Analysis; 12. Organic and Polymer Materials; 13. Polarimetry and Scatterometry; 14. THz Applications; 15. Two Dimensional Systems; 16. Two-phase Interfaces.

There were 4 tutorials, 7 keynote presentations, 75 oral presentations including 20 from invited speakers, and 76 posters presented on the online platform of ICSE-9 covering all the above mentioned topics. In addition, 6 industrial sponsors and 2 exhibitors demonstrated their latest products at the Exhibitor Session.

The Paul Drude Award, the most prestigious award in the ellipsometry community, is named in honor of the physicist Paul Karl Ludwig Drude (1863-1906) and given to young scientists for exceptional contributions

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tsf.2023.139980

Available online 20 July 2023 0040-6090/© 2023 Published by Elsevier B.V. to ellipsometry. The Paul Drude Award in 2022 were received by Dr. Honggang Gu (an assistant professor at Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China) for his excellent contribution to the development of advanced Mueller matrix ellipsometry (MME) with pioneering application in emerging 2D materials and Dr. Alyssa Mock (an assistant professor at Weber State University, Ogden, USA) for her pioneering work on generalized ellipsometric analysis of ultra-wide bandgap metal oxides with low-crystal symmetry. The award was presented by the Selection Committee Secretary at a special session of ICSE-9, followed by invited lectures by the two winners. The award consisted of a certificate, a prism, and a monetary price of 1000 EUR, which was sponsored by Wuhan Eoptics Technology Co. Ltd.

More information about ICSE-9 can be found at the ICSE-9 official website: http:// http://www.icse-9.com.

With the support of the editorial team of *Thin Solid Films*, 47 manuscripts related to ICSE-9 were submitted for peer-review. The review process lasted about 9 months, strictly following the peer review and publication rules of *Thin Sold Films*. Only high quality articles were accepted for publication. Finally, 38 peer-reviewed articles covering a variety of topics in the field of spectroscopic ellipsometry have been collected in this special issue of *Thin Solid Films*. We hope that these articles may inspire the scientific community of spectroscopic ellipsometry and related fields.

At last, on behalf of the ICSE-9 conference chair, Prof. Gang Jin, and other members of the ICSE-9 organizing committee, we deeply appreciate the trust and support from the international ellipsometry community. We would like to express our gratitude to all the authors and reviewers of this special issue, as well as all participants, sponsors, and exhibitors of ICSE-9. ICSE-10 will be held in Denver, Colorado, United States in 2025. We are looking forward to meeting each other again at ICSE-10.

Guest Editors of *Thin Solid Films* Special Issue of the ICSE-9 Proceedings



Photo: Attendees of ICSE-9 held in Beijing, China from May 22nd to 28th, 2022.

Declaration of Competing Interest

None.

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