

Preface

Hybrid materials have received a tremendous amount of attention in the last few years for a variety of reasons but primarily because they appear to offer the potential to combine the properties of inorganic and organic materials into single, composite substances typically at the nanometer scale. Through proper design and synthesis (or processing) these nanocomposites can offer properties that are not simply additive, but superior to the individual components. In this issue, our goal is to provide the reader with a broad overview of how organic/

inorganic hybrid nanocomposite materials are prepared, characterized and their physicochemical properties determined based on presentations made as part of the US–Japan Workshop on Hybrid Materials sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and held in Kyoto, Japan, in May 1997.

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