

PREFACE

Annual Review of Nano Research publishes excellent review articles in selected topic areas authored by those who are authorities in their own subfields of nanotechnology with two vital aims: (1) to present a comprehensive and coherent distilling of the state-of-the-art experimental results and understanding of theories detailed from the otherwise segmented and scattered literature, and (2) to offer critical opinions regarding the challenges, promises, and possible future directions of nano research.

The second volume of *Annual Review of Nano Research* includes 13 articles offering a concise review detailing recent advancements in a few selected subfields in nanotechnology. The first topic to be focused upon in this volume is the electronic and optical properties of nanostructured materials and their applications. The second featured subfield is the recent advancement in the synthesis and fabrication of nanomaterials or nanostructures. Applications of nanostructures and nanomaterials for environmental and/or energy conversion and storage purposes are the focus in this volume.

Dr. Jeff Zhang has devoted many long hours in the editing and formatting of all the review articles published within this volume. Mr. Yeow-Hwa Quek from World Scientific Publishing was responsible for much of the coordination necessary to make the publication of this volume possible.

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