



This issue of *Superficies y Vacío* contains papers presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thin Films (ICTF) organized by the Mexican Vacuum Society (SMCSyV) on behalf of the International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications (IUVSTA), held in conjunction with the 19<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the MVS.

The ICTF is a series of conferences started in Boston USA in 1968 which are held every three years at different venues around the world. This was the first time that an IUVSTA event was organized in Latin America. The conference was held from August 30th to September 3rd, 1999 in Cancun, Quintana Roo, México. The program of the 11<sup>th</sup>-ICTF included over 260 presented papers with 16 plenary talks, 16 simultaneous oral sessions, 3 poster sessions and 4 short courses. The scope of the 11<sup>th</sup>-ICTF covered a wide spectrum of the thin solid films area, which included: advances in epitaxial growth, computer modeling of thin film growth, films for magnetic and magneto-optical recording, films for optical applications, *in situ* diagnostics of thin films, large area film deposition, mechanical properties and stress, plasma enhanced film deposition, oxide films: ferroelectrics and superconductors, structure evolution during film growth, structure-property relationship in thin films, and coatings.

We would like to thank to the many referees for their assistance in the evaluation of the manuscripts submitted to produce this volume, which contains 84 papers. The 11<sup>th</sup>-ICTF committee would like to acknowledge the sponsors for their financial support of the conference. We hope that the publication of this volume will contribute to the progress in research and developing in the expanding field of thin films, in particular in the Latin America area.

Finally, our special thanks go to Milan Jergel and Matej Jergel for their support during the editing process, and to Mrs. Diana García Sotelo and Miss Elizabeth López Pallares for their support in the preparation of this volume.

**Miguel Meléndez-Lira and Máximo López-López**

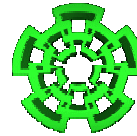
**Editors**

**December 1999**

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