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SCANNING PROBE SPECTROSCOPY
AND
RELATED METHODS, SPS'97
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Preface

The rapid development of scanning probe microscopy/spectroscopy techniques requires the effective exchange of ideas and achievements within the researcher community. Thus besides the worldwide STM conferences organized every 2 years in different countries, the small, more specialised conferences or symposia are very useful.

The 1st International Symposium on Scanning Probe Spectroscopy and Related Methods, SPS'97, was organized by the Institute of Physics of the Poznań University of Technology and the Institute of Applied Physics and Microstructure Research Centre of the University of Hamburg as the Satellite Conference to the 9th International Conference on Scanning Tunneling Microscopy/Spectroscopy and Related Techniques, STM'97, in Hamburg. This Symposium was held from 15th to 19th July 1997 in the Poznań Polish-German Academic Centre.

About 100 scientists from 15 countries attended the SPS'97 Symposium. 20 invited speakers gave lectures on recent achievements in numerous fields of scanning probe spectroscopy and related techniques with a special focus on various spectroscopy measurements. The following topics were discussed: atomically resolved electronic surface structures studied by scanning tunneling spectroscopy of semiconductors, metals and superconductors, current-imaging tunneling spectroscopy, magnetic force spectroscopy, ballistic emission spectroscopy, scanning near-field optical spectroscopy and computer-based atomic simulations in material science.

About 30 contributed papers have been presented, mostly as posters. 13 invited papers and 12 selected contributed papers have been prepared for publication in this Proceedings after the refereeing procedures. Sincere thanks are due to all referees for their tiresome and helpful work and to Editors of this issue of *Acta Physica Polonica A*.

We cordially thank all colleagues from the Program and Organizing Committees for their effective work and support during the Conference. We express our thanks to all Participants, especially to Invited Speakers for their cares in preparing excellent lectures and scientific activity during the Conference.

We are deeply indebted to our Sponsors for their financial support.

Bronisław Susła and Jerzy Rautuszkievicz — Chairmen

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