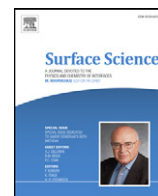




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Editorial: Special issue dedicated to Gabor Somorjai's 80th birthday



This special issue of *Surface Science* has been prepared to honor Professor Gabor A. Somorjai on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Professor Somorjai was born on May 4, 1935 in Budapest, Hungary. In 1953 he enrolled as a chemical engineering student at the Technical University of Budapest. Gabor was an active participant in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. When the Soviet military crushed the revolution, he had to leave the country by walking across the border with his sister and his future wife. After immigrating to the USA in 1957, he applied to begin graduate studies and was accepted at the University of California, Berkeley. Gabor received a PhD in Chemistry in 1960, only three years later. Following a short sojourn at IBM, he returned to Berkeley in 1964 to take up a faculty position in the Department of Chemistry and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, which he still holds today. For the interested reader, more can be learned about Gabor's fascinating life in his autobiography, "An American Scientist: The Autobiography of Gabor A. Somorjai."

Now past the age of 80 and with an academic career that spans more than 50 years, Gabor's impact on the fields of surface science and heterogeneous catalysis has been profound. Gabor has won many awards in recognition of his scientific accomplishments, including the Wolf Prize in 1998, the National Medal of Science in 2002, and the Priestly Medal in 2008. During his career, Gabor has educated nearly 400 scientists, either as graduate students, postdoctoral associates, visiting scholars or scientific collaborators in the areas of surface science and catalysis. Over one hundred of his former graduate students and postdoctoral associates have continued on to successful academic careers with a comparable number of highly successful industrial scientists. It is to the scientists that Gabor has influenced that this issue is dedicated.

To anyone who knows Gabor, in addition to his superb intellect, that are two words that come to mind Creativity and Enthusiasm. The scope of scientific subjects where he has personally made major contributions

is phenomenal and serves as a testament to his creativity. The energy and drive that he has put into these subjects are a direct result of his enthusiasm for science and discovery. In assembling this volume, we sought to capture something of Gabor's breadth and energy through the contributions by current and former associates. The breadth of Gabor's impact over the course of his career is reflected by the many directions into which his former students and postdocs have ventured. This is admirably captured by the range of topics published in this special issue: catalysis, adsorption, surface chemistry, tribology, corrosion, biological interfaces, materials synthesis, and nanoscience, to name a few.

It has been an honor for us to act as Guest Editors of this volume and contribute to the recognition of Gabor's impact and legacy. We hope you enjoy it.

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