

## Preface: Sixth International Conference on Plasma Medicine (ICPM-6)

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Plasma Medicine (ICPM-6) was hosted by Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, on September 4–9, 2016. ICPM-6 was attended by 390 participants in total (34 plenary and invited lecturers, 189 regular participants from academia, 28 from industry, 101 students, six sponsors, 20 accompanying persons, and 12 LOC) with the strongest participation from Japan (76), followed by Germany (48), France (39), the United States (33), Slovakia (27), Korea (27), Italy (22), Czechia (14), the United Kingdom (10), and other countries worldwide, including Australia and South America. ICPM-6, consistent with previous ICPM meetings, affirmed the growing trend in participation that indicates a growing interest in various disciplines in plasma biomedical and agriculture applications and fast developments in the field of plasma medicine.

The specific topics covered at the conference included plasma science and engineering in the following areas:

- Medical treatment with plasmas;
- Plasma–cell and plasma–tissue interactions and biological reactions;
- Plasma-based sterilization/decontamination;
- Agricultural and food applications of plasmas;
- Pharmaceutical applications and biochemical/biomolecular engineering with plasmas;
- Plasma–surface interactions and surface functionalizations for biomedical applications;
- Fundamentals of atmospheric plasmas;
- Plasma sources for biomedical applications;
- Plasma and liquid diagnostics and sensors; and
- Modeling and numerical simulations.

This special issue contains papers resulting from the presentations made at ICPM-6. Of note is the diversity of the scientific endeavors, ranging from low-pressure plasma modification of seed surfaces to large-scale, farm-ready water treatment systems.

ICPM-7 is planned for June 17–22, 2018, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, and will be hosted by Drexel University. Scientists interested in participation in this workshop should consult <http://icpm7.plasmainstitute.org> for further information.

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