

## P R E F A C E

Preparation and characterization of materials form crucial and vital aspects of materials research. Research and development activities related to preparation and characterization of materials have increased enormously in recent years. In order to review the progress in this important field of materials research, an Indo-US Conference on Preparation and Characterization of Materials was held at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in February 1981. Some of the papers presented in this conference are included in this special issue of the Bulletin of Materials Science to make them more widely available to the materials community here and abroad.

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