IUVSTA NEWS BULLETIN

Number: 199 June 2026

Union Internationale Pour La Science, La Technique et Les Applications du Vide
International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications
Internationale Union für Vakuum Forschung, Technik und Anwendung

Contents of IUVSTA News Bulletin Issue 199

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IUVSTA Communications Committee Co-Chair

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ECM 146, San Diego, California
Meeting's location Town and Country Hotel, San Diego CA

April 20th – April 21st, 2026

The 146th Executive Council Meeting of IUVTA (ECM146), Assembly of General Meeting (AGM10) and the associated meetings took place from Monday, April 19th to Tuesday, 20th April 2026 at the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, California. The ECM146 was Chaired by Jay Hendricks, President of IUVSTA, and was organized in conjunction with the 52nd International Conference on Metallurgical Coatings & Thin Films (ICMCTF-52) 19-24 April 2026 by Ivan Petrov, Communications Committee Chair, and Greg Exahos, USA representative with the help of AVS staff member Della Miller and Heather Korff. Within the context of ECM 146, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, a special all-invited IUVSTA Session was included as part of the ICMCTF-52 program, where ECM attendees gave talks. For the online part of the meeting, delegates were invited to join via TEAMS teleconference while onsite delegates were attending the meeting in the "Sunset" room of the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego. ECM 146 was divided in Morning and Afternoon sessions.

After President Jay Hendricks welcomed the delegates, the Secretary-General Ana G Silva, in collaboration with the Recording Secretary C. Eisenmenger-Sittner, checked the attendance for both sessions of the ECM146 and for the AGM 10. These were confirmed to be 80% and 78% for the morning and afternoon ECM 146 sessions, respectively, and 75.8% for the AGM. So, ECM 146, both sessions, and AGM were found to be safely quorate.

In his opening statement and report President Jay Hendricks, stated that he was proud to be the head of a strong and active Union (full statement is presented below). He announced that IVC 24 was right on track, with a MOU between the Portuguese Vacuum Society, SOPORVAC and the University of Coimbra (UC) having been signed. Also, the Thailand Particle and Radiation Society (TPRS) was in the progress of joining the Union. In addition, a MoU between Elsevier and the Union was signed for Students' support to visit IUVSTA Conferences.

The ECM 146 at work

Enjoying the California sun

The Finances of the Union were found to be sound, so that many STD Events in research and education (WS, School, TTC, SC) could and will be supported. Future projects of the Union are the establishment of a Corporate Affiliates Group and a body dedicated to Early Career Researchers. He addressed the strategic goals of the Union and urged members to communicate them by outreach activities, as such actions may return value to the member societies. Finally, he expresses thanks to the ICMCTF organizers in San Diego for organizing the real-life event and thanked all directors and attendants for showing up either on site or online.

The President's report was followed by a special session of Remembrance. The Union lost several dedicated people in the time between IVC23 and today's meeting. Obituaries of Papken Hovsepian and Roger Degryse were presented by Diederik Depla, and an obituary of Phil Woodruff was read by Maria Carmen Asensio. The President asked for a minute of silence for these dedicated persons. Obituaries are published below in the bulletin.

Continuing the Committee Reports, of the previous day, 20th April, the Chair of Statutes Committee, Ana G. Silva, reported on the Restricted Officers Business Meeting on April 20th. She indicated that solutions for "Early Career Researchers (ECR) Group" and for "Corporate Affiliates Group" had to be found in the Framework of the existing IUVSTA Statutes. The Executive Council will be asked later for vote to proceed in this direction.

Moreover, to comply with Belgian law, the Chair of Statutes Committee, Ana G. Silva, asked that the following Documents should be sent to the company ADMINCO to the attention of Jordan Kanda-Boko by Officers, Directors and Alternates of the present and the last Triennium (2022-2025, 2025-2028)

- Copy of passport
- Private Address
- Proof of residence (Power Bill or Register of Inhabitants possible)

The chair of Statutes Committee, Ana G. Silva, reported that the process of the new membership of the "Thailand Radiation and Particle Society" is proceeding smoothly.

The chair of Finance Committee, Arnaud Delcorte, reported that the budget 2025 was validated on March 10th, 2026. The increased share prize only partially covers the increasing expanses; however, the status of General fund is sound, considering the volatile financial environment. Concerning the budget 2026, the high number of events, as well as additional expanses for Webinars are still well covered if not all budget items are exploded. The Peter Barna award was provisioned with EUR 400.

The President asked for a vote to constitute the **Peter Barna** award as IUVSTA prize every 3 years during ICTF, provisioned with EUR 400 (2 Prizes, EUR 200.- each) from the IUVSTA budget starting in 2026. The vote was unanimously approved in open vote.

During AGM 10, the Treasurer, Arnaud Delcorte presented the validated budget of 2025 (Annex 2) and asked the delegates for approval. By open vote the validated budget of 2025 was approved unanimously. The Treasurer, Arnaud Delcorte presented the proposed budget for 2026 (Annex 3) and asked the delegates for a vote of approval. By open vote the proposed budget of 2026 was approved unanimously and with this the AGM is adjourned.

The Scientific Director Katsuyuki Fukatani thanked the members of STD for their division reports, event reports and event proposals. After the general report, Workshop and Division reports were given, followed by the presentation and

discussion of new proposals for Workshops (WS), Schools (SCH), Technical Training Courses (TTC) and Short Courses (SC). During STD all proposals were recommended for funding to ECM146. After the presentations of the new event proposals at ECM146, secret votes on Proposals for WSs, SCHs, TTCs and SCs were performed: three WSs, two SCHs, two TTCs and one SC were approved.

- "**111th IUVSTA Workshop** on UHV/XHV/UCV technologies toward 2030+"
- "**112th IUVSTA Workshop** on Advances in Biomedical Plasma and Surface Engineering"
- "**113th IUVSTA Workshop** International Workshop on Surface Physics – from the bulk to the surface of a solid"
- **23rd IUVSTA School** on "Surface Science Toolbox 2026"
- **24th IUVSTA School** on "Vacuum School: Theory, design, instrumentation and operation"
- **32nd IUVSTA Technical Training Course** (TTC) on "Plasma and Society III (Vacuum Thin Films and Microfabrication: Fundamentals and Hands-On Training on Lithography and Deposition Techniques".
- **33rd IUVSTA Technical Training Course** (TTC) on "Vacuum Science, Plasma Processing, and Surface Engineering: Fundamentals, Applications, and Education"
- **IUVSTA Short Course** on "SIMS 25 short course"

Proposals for hosting the future Executive Council Meeting ECM 147 were presented by the Spanish Vacuum Society (ASEVA) and by the German Vacuum Society (DVG).

Proposal by ASEVA (Spanish Vacuum Society), location Madrid, Sept. 4-6, 2026: the president of the Spanish society, Roman Nevschupa Kasatkin presented the proposal. After discussion was agreed to shift the date of the ECM 147 and the associated event by one week (one week later).

Proposal for hosting ECM 147 by DVG (German Vacuum Society), location Erfurt, Aug. 30 – 31, 2026, presented by Sven Ulrich.

A proposal for hosting ECM 149, proposed by ÖGV (Austrian Vacuum Society) location Vienna Sept. 03-08, 2027 was presented by Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner. In the proposal the ECM is scheduled for 3 days but can also have two days duration. One day, e.g. Friday Sept. 3, could also be used for lab tours or excursions.

After the secret vote conducted for the three proposals the future fixed ECM are the following:

The ECM 147 will be organized by ASEVA, between Sept 12 - 13, 2026 Madrid, Spain

The ECM 149 will be organized by ÖGV, between Sept 3 - 5, 2027 Vienna, Austria

The Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, and President elect, Freek Molkenboer, presented a Proposal to form an Early Career Researchers (ECR) Working Group. This group should be self-governing, with "well-controlled freedom" to develop innovative concepts. Formally it could act as a division, first provisional, then with a vote in STD. Up to 3 persons per society could be nominated. A young researcher would be a person past approx. 8 years after the PhD thesis. A secret vote on this item was conducted. The formation of the "Early Career Researchers (ECR) Working Group" was approved.

The Vice-Chair of the Industry Meets Science Committee, Freek Molkenboer, presented, on behalf of the Chair Monika Kwoka-Czornik, the "Corporate Affiliate Group". This group should consist of corporate entities tied to the Union, who contribute voluntary donations (no fees). It should lead to more involvement of industry in the Union. The funds contributed could be e. g. used for financing the ECR group. It should have no voting rights, however items which return value to this group should be identified. The status of the group should be defended in the by-laws of the Union. The formation of the "Corporate Affiliates Group" was approved.

Ana G Silva
Secretary-General
2025-2028

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Message from the President at ECM146

Dear Colleagues and Members,

It is my great pleasure to address you all. I want to begin by expressing how proud I am to lead such a strong

and active Union; your dedication is what drives our collective success. Seeing the energy and activity within IUVSTA makes me honored to serve as your President.

We have some exciting updates regarding our upcoming events and partnerships. First, IVC 24 is right on track. We have formalized our partnership with the Portuguese Vacuum Society, SOPORVAC, and the University of Coimbra (UC) via a new MOU. Furthermore, I am happy to share that the Thailand Particle and Radiation Society (TPRS) is currently in the process of joining our Union, expanding our global reach. Additionally, thanks to a new MOU with Elsevier, we are making it easier for students to attend IUVSTA conferences—an essential step in fostering new talent in our field.

Regarding our financial health, I am happy to announce that the Union remains in a sound position. This stability allows us to continue providing robust support for the Scientific and Technical Directorate's (STD) research and educational initiatives, including our workshops (WS), schools (SCH), Technical Training Courses (TTC), and Short Courses (SC). We are also looking toward the future with two new initiatives: the first steps for creation of a Corporate Affiliates Group (CAG) and a dedicated support system for Early Career Researchers thorough an ECR group.

Closing on a note of gratitude, I want to thank the ICMCTF organizers in San Diego for putting together such a wonderful in-person gathering and sponsoring our virtual meeting attendees. To all the directors and members who attended—whether you were there in person or joined us virtually—thank you for your time and your contribution to our community.

Warm regards,

Jay Hendricks

Jay Hendricks
President IUVSTA

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IUVSTA Medard W. Welch International Scholarship — Call for Applications 2026

The IUVSTA Medard W. Welch International Scholarship is awarded annually to a promising early career researcher who wishes to undertake research in vacuum science, vacuum technology, or their applications, broadly defined.

The Scholarship aims to promote international cooperation by enabling the recipient to spend between three months and one year conducting research in a laboratory outside their home country.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- hold at least a Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline; and
- be within one year of receiving a PhD, or no more than two years post PhD, at the time of application.

Final year PhD candidates and early career postdoctoral researchers are eligible. Career interruptions will be considered. Strong preference will be given to applicants proposing to work in a host laboratory in which they have not previously studied or worked.

Host Institution and Research Program

Applicants must independently arrange their proposed research program with a host laboratory of their choice. Each application must include:

- a research proposal (maximum 200 words);
- a letter from the host laboratory confirming:
- agreement to host the applicant,
- availability of facilities,
- proposed supervision,
- intended duration and dates of the research visit.

The research topic must fall within the scope of vacuum science, techniques, or applications. Publication of results in scientific or technical journals is encouraged.

Duration and Conditions

- The Scholarship must commence within one year of the award notification.
- The research stay must be at least three months and no longer than one year, depending on:
  - cost of living at the host institution,
  - applicant's career stage (pre vs post PhD),
  - availability of other funding.
- Any delay of more than three months relative to the approved plan must be approved by the host laboratory; otherwise, the award may be offered to another candidate.

Financial Support

- Total value: USD$15,000
- Paid in three instalments:
  1. USD $7,000 at the start of the research stay
  2. USD $7,000 on submission of a brief mid term report
  3. Remaining balance on submission of a final report

Recipients are encouraged to seek supplementary funding where possible.

Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed by the IUVSTA Welch Scholarship Committee using three equally weighted criteria:

Applicant: Considers the applicant's academic background, research experience, and potential to benefit from the Scholarship. This includes preparation relative to career stage, demonstrated research capability, evidence of initiative or leadership, and the anticipated professional impact of the international placement.

Proposal: Considers the scientific or technical quality of the proposed research. This includes relevance to vacuum science, techniques, or applications; clarity of objectives and approach; feasibility within the proposed timeframe; and the likely significance of the outcomes.

Institution: Considers the suitability of the host laboratory and the added value of the proposed placement. This includes alignment between the host's expertise and facilities and the proposed work, the level of supervisory and institutional support, and the extent to which the placement provides new international experience, consistent with the aims of the Scholarship.

Final selection reflects balanced consideration across all three criteria.

Application Materials (all required)

1. Completed Welch Scholarship application form;
2. Research proposal and host laboratory letter;
3. Curriculum vitae;
4. Copies or attestations of academic diplomas;
5. Two letters of recommendation from academic referees;
6. A declaration that the applicant will not violate any laws or engage in any political activity in the country where they intend to work during the tenure of the Scholarship.

Incomplete applications cannot be considered.

Researchers who applied unsuccessfully in previous years may reapply. Renewal of the Scholarship is not permitted.

Language Proficiency

The successful applicant must demonstrate reasonable proficiency in English or the language of the host country, sufficient to undertake the proposed research.

Equity Statement

IUVSTA encourages applications from researchers of all backgrounds. Career interruptions and non-linear career paths will be considered fairly during the assessment process.

Key Dates

- Application deadline: 15 September 2026
- Notification of outcome: late October 2026

Submission and Enquiries

Applications should be submitted via the online system or sent to:
Chair, IUVSTA Welch Scholarship Committee
Email: welchaward@iuvsta.org
Website: https://www.iuvsta.org; https://iuvsta.org/welch-scholarship/

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The workshop organized by Andre Anders, Chris Muratore, and Frank Zimone will be held from October 5 – 8, 2026. The city of Golden, Colorado was selected as the workshop venue for its status as an iconic city of the American West nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and within easy reach of the USA's top winter resorts during peak mountain snow season. The organizing committee has secured 11 Keynote presentations by global leaders and innovators in plasma diagnostics, surface engineering, and materials synthesis/characterization.

Attendees are encouraged to submit poster presentations to be shared with all workshop participants and are invited to participate in the complimentary tutorial "Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy (OES): Opportunities and Limitations" taught by Andre Anders. In addition, three complimentary offsite events are included: tours of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (now known as the National Laboratory of the Rockies), Colorado School of Mines, and the Coors Brewery.

A detailed prospectus of the workshop can be found at https://svctechcon.com/ , including

- Titles (including abstracts) of all Keynote presentations
- Tutorial syllabus
- Detailed workshop schedule
- Abstract upload instructions for all workshop participants interested in presenting a poster presentation
- Guidance for securing local hotel accommodation
- Registration instructions.

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https://www.dvg-online.org/iuvsta-schools

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39th ECOSS, an IUVSTA Endorsed Conference

https://www.ecoss2026.net/about-ecoss2026

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VASSCAA-13, an IUVSTA Endorsed Conference

http://www.vasscaa-13.org/

Abstract Submission Deadline
extended to June 12, 2026

Acceptance Notification
June 26, 2026

Early Registration
July 10, 2026

Plenary Speakers

Ying-Hao Eddie Chu
National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan

Yoshitada Morikawa
The University of Osaka, Japan

Yeongkook Oh
Korea Institute of Fusion Energy, Korea

Junfa Zhu
University of Science and Technology of China, China

Organized by KVS The Korean Vacuum Society

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FCSE – 2027, an IUVSTA Endorsed Conference

https://www.fcse-montreal.ca/

Coming soon

https://www.ictf2026.com/

Member Society event

https://avs72.avs.org/

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A Remembrance of Professor D. Phil Woodruff, FRS

It is with deep sadness that we remember Professor D. Phil Woodruff, Phil, a founding figure of the Warwick Physics Department in the UK and a globally respected leader in surface science and of the International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Application (IUVSTA). Phil joined Warwick in 1965 as a research student of Professor John Forty and became its first PhD graduate. He remained there throughout his career, shaping both the department and generations of scientists.

While his scientific achievements were exceptional, many will remember him most for his mentorship. Phil guided young researchers with clarity, patience, and quiet encouragement. He fostered independence while always offering thoughtful support, and despite his many international commitments, he consistently made time to listen, advise, and inspire. His influence is reflected in the many successful careers he helped shape worldwide.

His international scientific impact was complemented by his long and dedicated service to IUVSTA where he held several key roles, including President for the triennium 1998-2001. In this capacity, he played a pivotal role in strengthening scientific collaboration across Europe and beyond, with a particular commitment to supporting researchers from smaller and less well-resourced countries. Through his efforts, he helped establish enduring networks and opportunities, fostering a more inclusive and interconnected global scientific community.

Alongside this, Phil was a pioneer of experimental surface science, authoring foundational texts and more than 560 papers, and becoming, in 2006, Warwick's first Fellow of the Royal Society. He was awarded a Max-Planck Research Prize jointly with Alex Bradshaw in 1994 and received the British Vacuum Council Prize and John Yarwood Memorial Medal in 1998. Phil was elected fellow of AVS in 1994 and received the highest award of the Society in 2000 - Medard W. Welch Award. Our Union bestowed him the 2019 IUVSTA Prize for Science.

Even after retirement, and despite long illness, he remained active in research and collaboration, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to science and to others. Phil's legacy lies not only in his scientific achievements, but in the people and international community he helped build.

He will be remembered as an outstanding scientist, a generous mentor, and a truly global leader.

We remember him with deep respect and gratitude.

Prof. María C. Asensio

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A Remembrance of Professor Roger De Gryse

Roger De Gryse was a member of the jury during my PhD defense. To be honest, I remember little of that moment, but much more of our later meeting in which he suggested that I join his team. That first encounter was characteristic of Roger's communication style: honest and always sprinkled with the necessary humor. He had the ability to put people at ease. This disarming style also made him an excellent teacher. Otherwise said: he rarely judged quickly or without cause, and because of this many people under his supervision were given the opportunity to excel in scientific research, regardless of their background.

His research was mainly focused on applications. Not surprising, given his interest in vacuum-technical challenges, nourished by his training as a civil engineer. His solutions were elegant and often formed a solid platform for further progress. The fundamental scientific aspect of the research was a pleasant side effect.

In this way, Roger was not the traditional academic interested in long publication lists, large projects, and other trappings that keep professors awake at night. No, Roger did not lose sleep over such things. Whether he ever lost sleep over work-related problems at all, I have still to find out. There is, after all, the persistent anecdote of the pyjamas paired with a necktie, and his remark that most problems that arise during the night are usually solved by ten o'clock in the morning. A piece of wisdom that I still cherish.

With less interest in an academic career, it is not surprising that at a certain moment Roger left Ghent University part-time to support research activities within a company. Building a bridge between university research and industrial applications was always his biggest driving force, but also his biggest frustration when research was hindered by administrative obstacles, or as Roger once summarized it: "The paid overhead mainly serves to finance controls."

Across this proverbial bridge he shuttled ideas back and forth, allowing everyone to learn from one another. In this way he brought people closer together, because, as Roger used to say, collaboration, like many laws in physics, decreases with the square of the distance.

You may also take this transport quite literally, because Roger drove many kilometers in his beloved Toyota Celica—his think tank par excellence—to strengthen those collaborations. The destination of the trip was sometimes a restaurant, where Roger would skillfully interrupt a heated discussion with a witty remark. I still vividly remember the face of the waiter when Roger replied to the question: "Would you like some more water?" "Water? That will only rust my kidneys!"

Two of his skills were joined in BELVAC: bringing people together with interest in vacuum technology. He bridged as president of the society with ease the language barrier in my trilingual country. He was representative for Belgium in the IUVSTA in which he also acted as chair of the thin film division. He taught for many years, together with a colleague, a course on vacuum technology where he shared a remarkable comparison between surgery and vacuum technical problems: "A vacuum chamber is like a human body, the best is to keep it closed".

According to Roger, communication was the only way to learn the craft. Only then could you become a member of the "sputter guild," a term coined by Roger to summarize research on the deposition of thin films. That guild was a colorful group ranging from beginning PhD students to university professors, business leaders, and technicians.

I believe many will confirm that Roger was a crucial person in their careers. I am therefore honored that he welcomed me as a member of this guild, and it is with sadness that I now say farewell to its founder.

Prof. Diederik Depla

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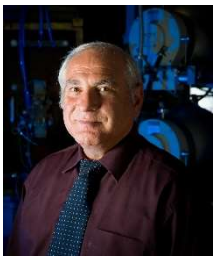
A Remembrance of Professor Papken Hovsepian



Our colleague was a prolific inventor and pioneer of many concepts in surface engineering, which are now fundamental to the community, including cathodic arc evaporation technology, high power impulse magnetron sputtering, metal ion etching and implantation to enhance adhesion, and nanoscale multilayer coatings. Grounded on strong theoretical foundations in materials science and engineering, he took pride in creating materials that actually performed in the real world achieving successes in countless industrial applications. He was an avid publisher and educator with more than 270 publications, 23 patents and 21 PhD students. As head of the Thin Films Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University, Professor Hovsepian led large scaled European Framework and industrial research projects. He played an essential role in the formation of the Joint Sheffield Hallam University - Fraunhofer IST HIPIMS Research Centre and the National HIPIMS Technology Centre- UK. His skills were also recognized by his peers as he was Fellow of the Institute of Physics and received from the Society of Vacuum Coaters the Mentor Award "For his valuable contributions in the development and industrialisation of High-Power Impulse Magnetron Sputtering, (HIPIMS) technology".

Professor Hovsepian was a warm and friendly colleague with a passion for science and blues. Our thoughts go to his family and in particular to his son Professor Arutiun Ehiasarian who is also an active member of the IUVSTA (SED Division)

Prof. Diederik Depla

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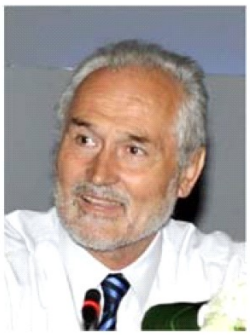
A Remembrance of Dr Nikola Radić



It is with deep sadness that the Croatian Vacuum Society informs the IUVSTA community of the passing of Dr. Nikola Radić, a long-standing, dedicated, and highly active member of both the Croatian Vacuum Society and IUVSTA.

Dr. Radić made outstanding and lasting contributions to the development of vacuum science and technology in Croatia and internationally. He was widely respected among colleagues worldwide for his scientific achievements in the fields of thin film growth and characterization, plasma physics, and magnetron sputtering deposition, as well as for his broad engagement in advancing vacuum science on both national and international levels.

Within IUVSTA, Dr. Radić held several important leadership roles over many years. He served as Alternate Councilor in the IUVSTA Executive Council (2010–2013), representing the Croatian Vacuum Society and contributing to the strategic direction of the Union. He was also deeply involved in the Thin Film Division, where he served as Secretary (2004–2007) and Vice-Chair (2007–2010), playing a key role in coordinating scientific activities and fostering international collaboration in thin film science. In addition, he contributed as LRPC Secretary (2010–2013) and later as CPC Vice-Chair (2013–2016), further demonstrating his sustained commitment to the governance and scientific mission of IUVSTA. Under his leadership the Croatian Vacuum Society organized outstanding ECM 119 and ICTF16 in Dubrovnik in 2014. He acted as the first director of the Technical Training Courses, Vice-Chair of IVC 19 organised by the SFV in Paris in 2013, and co-editor of the IUVSTA Book in 2018 (marking 60 years of the IUVSTA) to compile information on the histories of nearly 40 national vacuum societies, members of the IUVSTA

Beyond his administrative and leadership roles, Dr. Radić was actively engaged in promoting education and knowledge transfer within the vacuum science community, including the coordination of technical training courses and support for international scientific conferences. His efforts significantly strengthened the links between national vacuum societies and the global IUVSTA community.

Dr. Radić also served as President of the Croatian Vacuum Society (1997–2005) and Vice-President (2005–2013), where he was instrumental in enhancing the visibility and international integration of the Croatian vacuum science community. Through his editorial work in leading journals and his participation in numerous international conferences, he further contributed to the global dissemination of research in vacuum science and thin film technologies.

Many senior members of our community had the privilege of working closely with him and remember him not only for his scientific expertise but also for his integrity, collegiality, and unwavering commitment to advancing our field.

We share this news so that the broader IUVSTA community may join us in honoring his memory and acknowledging his contributions. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Dr. Maja Mičetić