

## **A Letter to our Readers and Contributors Regarding this Special Issue on Thermodynamics Dedicated to ECOS'10**

This special issue and the one that is to follow have been dedicated to a number of high quality papers first presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> *International Conference on the Efficiency, Cost, Optimization, Simulation and Environmental Impact of Energy Systems (ECOS)* held in Lausanne, Switzerland in June of 2010 and organized by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. These papers came highly recommended to the editors of *IJoT* from the conference chairs of *ECOS'10*, Prof. Daniel Favrat and Dr. François Maréchal. These chairs in turn were asked to work closely with us as guest editors to help organize our special issues, a process facilitated by our on-line journal system. I would like to express my thanks to them for their efforts. Although all the papers came highly recommended, they nonetheless underwent or are currently undergoing our rigorous peer review process in order to assure that the quality of the papers published for these two special issues is indeed up to the standards that we have continuously maintained for our journal over the years.

As to the subjects covered, they include a number of different areas of thermodynamics from the theoretical to the applied. Of the six papers appearing in the December special issue, a number of diverse topics are involved from the effects of quantum considerations on the thermodynamic and transport behavior of gases at the nanoscale to the use of entropy minimization in a molten carbonate fuel cell to determine optimal flow paths to the non-equilibrium thermodynamic coupling of thermal and molar fluxes in a distillation column to a thermodynamic analysis of polygeneration in a fuel-rich gas turbine cycle to the theoretical study of transesterification of triglycerides to biodiesel fuel. Several additional papers are planned for the next special issue and the topic areas covered should be as diverse as the present. The editorial staff and I hope that you find these papers as interesting as we have.

Michael R. von Spakovsky