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Editorial

It is a pleasure to act as guest editor of this special issue of Boletín del Grupo Español del Carbono (BGEC) dedicated to the recent research carried out on carbon materials in Portugal.

It is worth to point out that two special issues (nº 39 and nº 40) of BGEC were already dedicated to the carbon research in Portugal in 2016. I am thankful to the groups who participated in 2016 and agreed to contribute again, namely Prof. José L. Figueiredo (University of Porto) and Prof. Ana P. Carvalho (University of Lisboa). Naturally, I am also grateful to the other groups who also accepted my invitation to share their research in this special issue, like the group of Prof. Cristina Freire (University of Porto), Prof. Luísa Martins (University of Lisboa), Prof. Conceição Paiva (University of Minho), Prof. Florinda Costa and Prof. Rui Silva (University of Aveiro) and to Prof. Luís S. Lobo (Nova University of Lisboa).

The first contribution of this special issue deals with the news about the Carbon Group of the Portuguese Chemical Society, created in 2015. It was kindly provided by Prof. José L. Figueiredo, who is also the author of the second article, dealing with the recent research carried out by his group on carbon materials for catalysis, advanced functional carbon materials and their applications in energy, fuels and chemicals.

The third paper is from the group of Prof. Cristina Freire and it deals with hybrid/doped carbon-based (nano) materials for eco-sustainable catalysis, biomass valorization, energy and smart devices. The article of Prof. Luísa Martins deals with carbon materials as supports for iron and gold catalysts. The group Prof. Ana P. Carvalho writes about acid chars and their use in adsorption and catalysis.

The article from Prof. Conceição Paiva's group deals with the functionalization of carbon nanoparticles and their potential applications. Prof. Florinda and co-workers provide a short

review on their research on hybrids of nanocrystalline diamond with carbon nanotubes, graphite or graphene and other graphene materials. Prof. Rui Silva and co-workers write on diamond growth on ceramics and synthesis of carbon nanotubes. Finally, Prof. Luís S. Lobo describes the mechanism of bamboo-like carbon fibers growth.

It is my wish that the research on carbon materials will continue to increase in Portugal and that in some years we will have another special issue, with the participation of these and other groups. I also trust that the publication of these interesting works will contribute to the establishment of new collaborations.

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