



February 24, 2017

MRS-Serbia Award Committee  
c/o Professor Dr. Dragan Uskokovic  
Institute of Technical Sciences of SASA  
Knez Mihailova 35/IV, PO Box 377  
11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Re: MRS-Serbia Award 2017

Dear Colleagues:

I am very pleased to nominate Professor Dr. Velimir Radmilović to receive this year's MRS-Serbia Award. By any standards, he is an international materials scientist of the highest standing and his candidature only adds further to the prestige of this important Award.

I myself have known Professor Radmilović (Mimo) since 1983 when he attended the NATO summer school on Quantitative Electron Microscopy in Glasgow, Scotland. Amongst all the students at that school, he impressed me immediately as being singular, strong and self-assured as an individual. Since then I have followed his career carefully as he has spent a considerable number of years at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) in California, USA, which is in quite close proximity to my own institution. In addition, I have also worked closely with him to advise concerning the increasingly important Yucomat conferences which are sponsored by the Materials Research Society of Serbia.

As can be seen from his curriculum vitae, Mimo started his academic career at the University of Belgrade after receiving his Ph.D. there in 1985. He spent several assignments at the University of California, Berkeley before becoming staff scientist and principal investigator at the U.S. National Center for Electron Microscopy (NCEM) at LBNL for about 15 years. This was arguably his most productive and influential period at the international scientific level, resulting in numerous publications and their associated citations in the top journals. He has since returned to the University of Belgrade in 2011 as Scientific Advisor and as Corresponding Member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Mimo has had a remarkably successful scientific career. Being trained as an expert in physical metallurgy and phase transformations, he became one of the foremost practitioners of high resolution electron microscopy and its application to metallurgical problems. Most notable amongst this work are his papers on Al-Li-Sc alloys and the interesting core structure precipitates which strengthen them. The quality of the electron microscope images leading to the understanding of the

underlying basic principles associated with their formation during heat treatment, is simply stunning. This was recognized by the European Microscopy Society (EMS) Outstanding Paper Award presented at the quadrennial EMS meeting in Manchester, UK in 2012, which is clearly a rare honor.

He has since gone on to make significant contributions to the structure and processing of semiconductor nanowires for possible thermoelectric applications and more recently to the structure and properties of nanoparticles for catalytic purposes. In each case his research has been substantiated with important publications and numerous invited talks and presentations at conferences, workshops, seminars etc. In fact his output in terms of publications and citations (over 600 per year in the conservative Web of Science) match those of the most successful researchers and professors at the major universities and institutions worldwide.

However in my opinion, one further aspect sets Mimo apart from others in consideration for the present Award. Besides his contributions emanating from NCEM and the accompanying collaborations, it is clear from his publication record that he has continued to work closely with scientists whose origin is associated with the former Yugoslavia. This clearly involves both his direct contributions and the experience he has gained working at a well-funded U.S. national laboratory, in a mentoring capacity. Moreover he has given significant input, along with others at MRS-Serbia, to develop the Yucomat Conference series, now in their 22<sup>nd</sup> year, into one which is truly international and one for which an invitation to attend and present is highly sought after.

Accordingly it is my belief that Professor Radmilović is a materials scientist of the highest caliber and integrity, that he has made many significant contributions to the understanding and development of new alloys and materials and that he has energetically and tirelessly promoted the best interests of science and technology within the former Yugoslavia, often during its most difficult period. For these reasons, and for many others which could also be mentioned, I believe that he is a primary candidate for the 2017 MRS-Serbia Award, and I nominate him with my strongest possible recommendation.

Please let me know if you would like further information, which I would be happy to provide.

Yours sincerely



Robert Sinclair  
Professor of Materials Science & Engineering  
Charles M. Pigott Professor in the School of Engineering, Stanford University  
Chair of the International Advisory Board for the Yucomat Conferences under the auspices of the  
Materials Research Society of Serbia