

## 9<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Carbon Congress: A Virtual Meeting

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Carbon is one of the most important elements on Earth. Its allotropes allow several applications in chemistry, physics, biology, aerospace, environment, and others. Brazil has several research groups focused on surpassing the frontiers of knowledge, and these groups have a chance to discuss their advances during the biannual meeting of the Brazilian Carbon Association.

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Brazilian Carbon Congress was held virtually from November 10<sup>th</sup> to November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Expert researchers from institutions like USP, UFMG, INCT, UFRJ, INPE, UFPI, UNINOVE, CSIR (India), UFABC, UEM, UNICAMP, UR (Universidad de la República - Uruguay), and industries provided 19 lectures about history, characterization, opportunities, and perspectives of carbon production to be applied on supercapacitors, aerospace science, biomedicine, sustainability, and others. The discussion panel entitled “Carbon: from Oiapoque to Chui” approached the problems, challenges, and perspectives of carbon research in Brazil, from North to South. The panel gathered one research from each region of Brazil: Dr. Neila Braga (UFAM) representing the North, Dr. Carolina Jauris (UNIPAMPA) representing the South, Dr. Victor Souza (UFGD) representing the Midwest, Dr. Daniel Elias (Gerdau Graphene) representing the Southeast, and Dr. Antonio Filho (UFC) representing the Northeast. Such discussions proved more than necessary since of 156 participants, 10% were from the North, 5% from the Northeast, 1% from Mideast, 78% from the Southeast, 10% from the South, and 3% from other countries.

There were 74 poster presentations from undergraduate students, graduate students, and researchers. From these presentations, 12% were on electrochemical applications, 8% on aerospace and space applications, 7% on biological and medical applications of carbon, 13% on carbon fibers and composites, 34% on carbon nanomaterials, and 26% on sustainable and environment. From these, 19 works were invited to be extended and submitted in this special issue as original articles. After a rigorous peer review, 13 papers were accepted to compose this special issue.

The organizing committee thanks all speakers, participants, and attendees of the 9<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Carbon Congress, especially because of the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual meeting was challenging on several levels, but the upside is that Brazilian researchers from all over Brazil became aware of the biannual conference. Now, new challenges arise, such as organizing a hybrid congress and providing the same level of experience for present and virtual attendees. Well, let's do this!