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Foreword

Professor Salim Ciraci

It is a great honor and pleasure to introduce this Festschrift issue of *Solid State Communications* on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Professor Salim Ciraci. A large number of people have contributed to the preparation of this special issue along with the scientific meeting held 4–7 November 2002 at the Department of Physics, Bilkent University. I sincerely thank them all and offer this Festschrift as a token of appreciation of the influential and successful scientific career of Professor Ciraci.

Salim Ciraci obtained his undergraduate degree from the Istanbul Technical University in Mechanical Engineering. After a few years industrial experience he went to Stanford University for his PhD degree, working under Professor Walter Harrison. He has worked as a Research Scientist at IBM (Almaden) and later as a faculty member at the Middle East Technical University, before joining the then newly created Bilkent University in 1985. Over his long and productive career, Ciraci has made pioneering contributions to a number of emerging and established fields. Realistic calculations of surface states of semiconductors, classical molecular dynamics simulations for atomic force microscopy (AFM), tip-sample effects in scanning tunneling and atomic force microscopies, ab initio calculations of short-range forces as measured in AFM, conductance quantization in one-dimensional constrictions, effects of strain on the electronic and chemical properties of carbon nanotubes are among the many areas of research he has actively worked on. He has some 200 scientific publications for which he received over 4000 citations.

He has been a major participant in and an influential leader of the Turkish physics community, particularly in

the condensed matter physics and materials science areas, since the early 1980s. Another important aspect of Professor Ciraci is his great organizational skills which he demonstrated when he became the founding chairman of the Department of Physics and then the Dean of Faculty of Science at Bilkent University. In a very short time the Physics Department became the center of attraction and excellence for very bright students, talented faculty members, and numerous visiting researchers. He set a fine example as a role model for all of us as a scientist, teacher and mentor. He supervised the doctoral theses of about 10 students who themselves are on their way to very successful scientific careers in Turkey and abroad. A full member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences since its inception, Ciraci has also found there an opportunity to help shape the future of Turkish science for future generations.

I believe we have a very good representation of contributors to this Festschrift ranging from Professor Ciraci's thesis supervisor W. Harrison to his long time colleagues and former students. It is appropriate that the collection of articles appearing in this issue of *Solid State Communications* reflect the recent fields of interest of Ciraci who himself is an occasional contributor to SSC.

Without further ado, and on behalf of everyone involved, I congratulate Professor Ciraci on his 60th birthday and wish him many more joyous and productive years.

B. Tanatar*

*Department of Physics, Bilkent University,
Ankara 06533, Turkey
E-mail address: tanatar@fen.bilkent.edu.tr*

* Tel.: +90-312-290-1591; fax: +90-312-266-4579.