PREFACE

E. MICHAEL CAMPBELL

General Atomics, San Diego, CA

RICHARD R. FREEMAN

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

KAZUO A. TANAKA

Osaka University, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

In this special issue of *Fusion Science and Technology*, we have attempted to provide a comprehensive view by leading researchers of the status of the world-wide effort in fast ignition as of the end of the year 2005. Papers in this issue cover theoretical, computational, and experimental research on all aspects of fast ignition; the next generation of facilities that will provide critical data; and the associated science and technology of high-energy, short-pulse lasers, target fabrication, and diagnostics. For completeness and as a motivation for research, fusion power plants based on fast ignition targets are also included.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Nermin Uckan, whose vision, patience, and perseverance made this issue possible. We also would like to express our gratitude to the international cadre of authors whose contributions will make this issue a reference for scientists working in the field for years to come. And last, but far from least, we would like to recognize the exceptional efforts of Ken Schultz and Bill Hogan. It is no overstatement to say that this issue would never have been completed if not for their efforts.