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This volume contains representative papers giving details of presentations made during Symposium M "Nanoparticles and Nanowire Building Blocks—Synthesis, Processing, Characterization and Theory," held April 13–16 at the 2004 MRS Spring Meeting in San Francisco, California. The symposium covered an exciting and rapidly developing area of research, which was evidenced by over 180 oral and poster presentations, by being the largest symposium of the Spring Meeting, and by having a very large international representation.

The enormous number of submissions, and the enthusiastic, full attendance at the sessions, is partly to be credited to the exemplary organization of Giulia Galli and Christopher B. Murray (to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks), and partly to the fact that the general areas of nanostructures and nanofabrication are presently among the most important and intriguing in all of materials science. Indeed, the substance of what is presented in this volume likely represents the seeds of what will grow to become the mainstream of importance within the MRS for decades to come. We wish to thank the MRS, the Symposium M organizers, the authors, and the gracious reviewers for making this volume a reality.

Orest J. Glembocki
Charles E. Hunt
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