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The Society's interdisciplinary approach differs from that of single-discipline professional societies because it promotes information exchange across the many technical fields touching materials development. MRS sponsors two major international annual meetings encompassing approximately 70 topical symposia, and also sponsors numerous single-topic scientific meetings. The Society recognizes professional and technical excellence and fosters technical interaction in local geographic regions through Sections and University Chapters.

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MRS Bulletin (ISSN: 0883-7694) is published 12 times a year by the Materials Research Society, 506 Keystone Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086-7573. Periodical postage paid at Warrendale, PA and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *MRS Bulletin* in care of the Materials Research Society, at the address listed; phone 724-779-3003; fax 724-779-8313. Printed in the U.S.A.

Additional copies of articles in *MRS Bulletin* may be made at \$2.50 per article. This fee can be paid to the Materials Research Society through the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 27 Congress Street, Salem, MA 01970.

Membership in MRS is \$80 annually for regular members, \$25 for students. Dues include an allocation of \$29 (\$17 for students) to a subscription to *MRS Bulletin*. Individual member subscriptions are for personal use only. Non-member subscription rates are \$155 for one calendar year (12 issues) within the U.S.A. and \$215 elsewhere. Single copies may be purchased for \$16 each. Send subscription orders to Subscription Department, Materials Research Society, 506 Keystone Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086-7573. Requests from subscribers for missing journal issues will be honored without charge only if received within six months of the issue's actual date of publication; otherwise, the issue may be purchased at the single-copy price.

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