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Series Ed.: P. Araujo

Carbon is intimately connected to almost everything we deal with in a daily basis. Due to its outstanding properties, such as high stability at environmental conditions, different hybridizations, strong covalent bond formation and easy of compounds formation, carbon has been a topic of scientific interest in several areas. Indeed, starting in the 19th century, chemists have devoted a whole field to study carbon-based compounds, which is, nowadays, known as Organic Chemistry. Remarkably, the last 30 years have been witnessing an exponential advance in the science involving carbon and carbon structures. Since the discovery of Fullerenes in 1985, which was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1996, carbon nanostructures have been attracting a great deal of attention from the research community. This public interest dramatically increased after the publications by the Iijima and Bethune groups on single-wall carbon nanotubes in 1993 and found a “new research era” with the isolation of a monolayer of carbon atoms, also called graphene, which conducted groundbreaking experiments demonstrating outstanding phenomena such as the Klein-Tunneling and the fractional quantum hall effect. No wonder, graphene was the object of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Physics.

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