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The Society's interdisciplinary approach to the exchange of technical information is qualitatively different from that provided by single-discipline professional societies because it promotes technical exchange across the various fields of science affecting materials development. MRS sponsors two major international annual meetings encompassing many topical symposia, as well as numerous single-topic scientific meetings each year. It recognizes professional and technical excellence, conducts tutorials, and fosters technical exchange in various local geographical regions through Section activities and Student Chapters on university campuses.

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Postmaster—Send change of address notice to:

Cambridge University Press
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor,
New York, NY 10006

A publication of the
MRS MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY
Advancing materials. Improving the quality of life.

Periodical Rate Postage Paid at New York, NY
and Additional Mailing Offices

ISSN: 0884-2914