Editorial: Manufacturing Research

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This special ‘Manufacturing Research’ issue of the journal consists of extended versions of papers presented at the 14th International Conference on Manufacturing Research (ICMR 2016) which was held on 6–8 September 2016 at Loughborough University, Loughborough, UK. The ICMR is a major event for academics and industrialists who are engaged in manufacturing research. Held annually in the UK since the late 1970s, the conference is renowned as a friendly and inclusive environment that brings together a broad community of researchers who share a common goal in developing and managing the technologies and operations that are key to sustaining the success of manufacturing businesses. For over two decades, ICMR has been the main manufacturing research conference organised in the UK, successfully bringing researchers, academics and industrialists together to share their ideas, knowledge and experiences. Initiated as a National Conference by the Consortium of UK University Manufacturing Engineering Heads (COMEH), it became an International Conference in 2003 to reflect the current trends in manufacturing engineering and to promote the exchange of research and engineering application experiences internationally. The ICMR 2016 conference focused on many aspects of product development, information systems and digital technologies, materials, manufacturing processes and technologies as well as management approaches. It provided an excellent avenue for researchers to present state-of-the-art multidisciplinary research and exchange ideas through papers on both cutting-edge theoretical manufacturing research and its recent industrial application with the goal of bringing together practical and theoretical knowledge from academic, governmental and industry organisations across the world. This special issue reflects the broad scope of manufacturing research that was discussed during the conference.

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Guest Editors