

AINSE Gold Medal Dr Gianluca Paglia - Curtin University of Technology (AINSE 2003 Gold Medal Presentation)



AINSE (then) President Professor Hans Coster (left) presenting Gianluca Paglia with his Gold Medal.

Gianluca has conducted outstanding research and written an excellent Ph.D. thesis on the topic "Determination of the structure of g -alumina using empirical and first principles calculations combined with supporting experiments". This is evident by the number of publications that have been a direct result of his Ph.D. research. He has been an author on 5 refereed Journal papers and 3 refereed Conference papers. The refereed Journal papers include substantial pieces of work in high quality Journals such as Physical Review B. Condensed Matter, Chemistry of Materials and The Journal of Materials Chemistry. He has also submitted another paper to Physical Review B. Condensed Matter, which is presently under review. Two other manuscripts are in preparation for submission to Physical Review B. Condensed Matter and Journal of Microporous and Mesoporous Materials. Gianluca is First author on 7 of the 9 publications, which is testimony to the fact that he was the prime mover behind the majority of these publications.

His Ph.D. thesis examiners rated the work very highly and this is evident by the following comments:

"Well done! This is a first class piece of work". "The work represents a significant advance in our knowledge of this important phase". "I have no reservations in recommending the award of the degree of PhD to Gianluca Paglia". "This thesis presents work in which an impressive array of experimental techniques are applied in concert with computer simulation methodologies to investigate the structure of g -alumina". "I have enjoyed reading the thesis and am confident that it is a significant contribution to the field and is definitely of the standard required for the award of a Ph.D. qualification".

Gianluca's research was greatly assisted by an AINSE Post Graduate Research Award (PGRA) in the years 2001, 2002 and 2003. Given the fruitful results from the AINSE PGRA coupled with Gianluca's marvellous publication record from his Ph.D. research, I have no hesitation in recommending Gianluca be awarded the Graduate Student AINSE Gold Medal for excellence in research. In fact I give the highest recommendation possible that Gianluca be awarded this honour.