



**Dr Aldona Balčiūnaitė** is a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Physical Sciences and Technology. In 2017 she defended her doctoral dissertation “New materials for alkaline fuel cells: synthesis, characterization, and properties”. Her main research areas include fuel cells, catalysts, electroless metal deposition, and electrochemical methods of analysis. Her research area is related with promising, worldwide intensive research into the properties of materials that are used in fuel cells and is focused on the search of new efficient materials that can be applied in direct alkaline fuel cells such as sodium borohydride, hydrazine, methanol, etc. fuel cells with the aim to enhance the performance of existing or new fuel cells. The research results have been published in 32 articles indexed in Clarivate Analytics Web of Science database. She is a co-author of three Lithuanian patents. She was the chair at the ECS and SMEQ Joint International Meeting (AiMES 2018) and the 8th International Advances in Applied Physics Materials Science Congress and Exhibition (APMAS 2018). She has done several internships at the Center of Physics and Engineering of Advanced Materials (CeFEMA) of Instituto Superior Tecnico (IST, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal). Aldona Balčiūnaitė is the recipient of the Eileen and Vincent Kadis Scholarship of Canadian Lithuanian Foundation at Vilnius University (2012) and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences award for the best student research work “Investigation of borohydride oxidation at the nanostructured Au(Ni)/TiO<sub>2</sub>-NTs electrode” (2013). In 2013, she was also the Laureate of the Conference of Young Researchers, organized by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and won the INFOBALT fellowship, and in 2018 she was awarded the prize of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences awarded to Young Scientist and PhD students for her study “New materials for alkaline fuel cells: synthesis, characterization and properties” and won the ECS Meeting Travel Grant for participation in the ECS and SMEQ Joint International Meeting (AiMES 2018) conference.