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The Society's interdisciplinary approach differs from that of single-discipline professional societies because it promotes information exchange across the many technical fields touching materials development. MRS sponsors two major international annual meetings encompassing approximately 70 topical symposia, and also sponsors numerous single-topic scientific meetings. The Society recognizes professional and technical excellence and fosters technical interaction in local geographic regions through Sections and University Chapters.

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*MRS Bulletin* is included in *Current Contents®/Engineering, Computing, and Technology*; *Current Contents®/Physical, Chemical, and Earth Sciences*, the *SciSearch®* online database, *Research Alert®*, *Science Citation Index®*, and the *Materials Science Citation Index®*. Back volumes of *MRS Bulletin* are available on microfiche through University Microfilms Inc., 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106, USA.

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