

## Preface

Published online: 30 March 2007 – © Società Italiana di Fisica / Springer-Verlag 2007

The *IVth International Conference on Quarks and Nuclear Physics* convened in Madrid between June 5th and 10th, 2006. The meeting was attended by more than two hundred participants and over hundred presentations took place. These proceedings are an attempt to capture for the posterity the intense scientific exchange that took place during those days. The presentations were selected by the meeting convenors in collaboration with the advisory committees. Only the contributions which have passed an anonymous refereeing process are published here. The complete proceedings will appear in a dedicated book.

The scientific content of the conference was broad, covering topics in Nuclear Structure and Interactions, Electron Scattering, Nuclear Astrophysics, Field Theory and Lattice, Quark Models, Chiral Lagrangians, etc, and of particular great interest were the presentations by most of the experimental collaborations in the field. Precisely this was the richness of the meeting, the possibility to attend talks in the same field of physics but with diverse approaches.

The meeting also covered topics relatively new to Nuclear Physics, such as Heavy Quark Physics, that is to play an important role in the future FAIR experimental program, and had a session dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Proton Form Factor in 1956.

We have gathered in this issue over a hundred contributions that we hope will convey to you, the practicing physicist, the excitement that meeting attendees felt. The page limits were 3 pages for research contributions and 6 pages for reviews. We have been flexible with this rule as the referees sometimes required clarification or expansion of the ideas presented.

We have classified the contributions according to a few main lines which, in some way, respects the classification of the various sessions of the conference as approved by the International Advisory Committee.

We would like to thank our endorsing and sponsoring organizations, the American Physical Society (through its topical group in Hadron Physics), and the Real Sociedad Española de Física, the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia of Spain through grants FPA 2004-02602, 2005-02327 and FPA 2005-23849-E, and the host institution, the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, through a grant from Vicerrectorado de Investigación, and financing the seminar Matter under Extreme Conditions through the Vicerrectorado de Relaciones Internacionales.

We are indebted to many people for their enthusiastic support and collaboration, especially the conference convenors, the members of the Advisory Committees, the Dean of Physics at the Universidad Complutense, José María Gómez, Anthony Thomas from Jefferson Lab, and Craig Roberts from APS. We would also like to thank our support staff Chon, Alvaro, Carlos, Guillermo, Javier, Juan, Lourdes, Rubén, for their help.

We wish this issue becomes useful for the future readers, both graduate students and practicing physicists. We hope, for those who attended the meeting, that it will bring back some good memories of a very successful encounter and the days spent in the beautiful and lively city of Madrid. Finally, we would like to thank all participants for making *QNP 2006* a reference in Nuclear and Particle Physics.

Vicente Vento

*Editor of EPJ A*

Madrid and Valencia, January 2007

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