

XXIII Brazilian National Meeting on Particles and Fields Foreword

The XXIII Brazilian National Meeting on Particles and Fields (ENFPC) took place at Águas de Lindóia, São Paulo, from 15 to 19 October, 2002. This conference is part of the series of annual physics meetings sponsored by the Brazilian Physical Society (SBF), with the support of several Brazilian organizations (CAPES, CLAF, CNPq FAPERJ, FAPESBA, and FAPESP) and of the graduate programs of some Brazilian universities.

There were 345 registrations, including faculty members, research associates, and students, from Brazil and abroad. This has been the largest number of participants in the history of these meetings. The increase of interest and participation in the physics community was inversely proportional to the amount of support from our funding agencies, specially at the federal level. The Organizing Committee thanks the efforts of Prof. José Roberto Leite, President of SBF, whose help was essential for avoiding the very possibility of cancellation of the meeting due to the lack of funding.

We worked in close collaboration with CLAF. This edition of the ENFPC was preceded by the IV Latin American Symposium on High Energy Physics, SILAFAE, with the possibility of inviting several common speakers, as well as having the participation of a larger number of Latin-American faculty members and students. This common work of organization was shared with Professor Luis Masperi, president of CLAF, and his staff.

The event had the same successful format of the last years. There were six plenary talks, by Prof. A. Watson (Leeds), Prof. R. Barbieri (Pisa), Prof. J. Maldacena (Harvard), Dr. D. Treille (CERN), Prof. S. Brodsky (SLAC, Stanford), and Dr. A. Stebbins (FERMILAB); there were twelve parallel talks, by Professors P. Giubelino (INFN), G. Matsas (IFT), M. Magro (USP), C. Wotzasek (UFRJ), E. Ma (U. C. Riverside), J. A. S. de Lima (UFRN), J. Helayel (CBPF), A. C. dos Reis (CBPF), T. Kodama (UFRJ), V. Mostepanenko (UFPb), N. Berkovits (IFT), and W. Carvalho (UERJ), covering the state of art on Cosmology and Gravitation, Phenomenology, Experimental High Energy and Quantum Field Theory. The review talks were presented by Professors I. D. Soares (CBPF), L. M. Mundim Filho (UERJ), V. Pleitez (IFT), and C. A. A. de Carvalho (UFRJ).

The participants presented 108 oral communications and 203 posters. Both oral and poster sessions took place in a lively scientific atmosphere, with a high level of activity, and many chances for developing scientific collaborations. Presentations were selected according to novelty, quality of work, and proportionality between areas, with priority for post-doctors, graduate students, and mini reviews. The complementary program included the already traditional seminar for a general audience, attended by local students, teachers and community. This year, Prof. Marcelo Guzzo (UNICAMP) presented a nice talk on neutrino physics. The life and scientific work of the late colleagues, Prof. Juan Mignaco and Prof. Prem Srivastava, were covered with property and moving words by Prof. Erasmo Ferreira and Prof. Stanley Brodsky, respectively, who were able to transmit to the young, and not so young colleagues, the relevance of their contributions to our areas of research and to physics life in Brazil.

This special issue of the Brazilian Journal of Physics contains the written versions of most of the invited talks, plenary, parallel and review sessions. We are sorry that some speakers have not been able to send their contributions. The oral and poster communications are electronically published in the homepage of the event, www.sbfisica.org.br/eventos/enfpc/xxiii.

We are grateful to all the speakers, to the SBF, and to the funding agencies. We strongly believe that the ENFPC is a very relevant activity for the scientific development of Brazil.

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Maria Beatriz Gay Ducati
Guest editor