Foreword

This issue contains papers of lectures and talks presented at Quantum Structures '96, Berlin, from July 28 to August 3, the third of a series of conferences proposed to be held biannually by the International Quantum Structures Association. We thank the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the President of the Technical University of Berlin for their essential financial support. The next meeting will take place in 1998 at Mikulas-Jan, Slovakia. We thank the editor-in-chief of this journal as well as Plenum Press for the preparation of this issue.

Besides the classical fields interest to the Association, we also wished to attract the attention of the participants to other topics that have deep relations to fundamental aspects of quantum theory, namely quantum theory on curved space-time and quantum optics, communication, and computation. Because of the relatively large number of participants, parallel sessions could not be avoided. We organized the material into sessions in which related topics were placed together as far as possible. In the proceedings contained in this issue the papers are also ordered in this manner.

Two awards were made by the International Quantum Structures Association: one to Maria Pia Solèr and one to Mirko Navara for their scientific achievements. During the conference we had the pleasure to congratulate and honor our colleague Gerard G. Emch on the occasion of his 60th birthday. This had been initiated and prepared confidentially under the name "Emchfest" by his students spread over almost all the world, and we think it was a happy surprise for him to meet most of them together at the conference in Berlin.

Finally, we thank the board members for their cooperative help and their work as referees and, last but not least, the student helpers at the conference, Constanze Janiszewski, Juliane Strassner, Michael Bass, Kai Hodeck, Martin Kurth, and Stefan Kurth, who also helped the participants during the lectures and breaks.

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