

Preface

This volume of the *Journal of Statistical Physics* is dedicated to Ilya Prigogine, who, for more than forty years, has been a central figure in this field—extending its frontiers and deepening its foundations. His ideas have helped develop whole new subjects in nonequilibrium statistical mechanics and have influenced areas formerly far removed from this field including such diverse problems as biological evolution, statistical theory of traffic flow, and epistemological implications of irreversibility and self-organization. In all cases he has sought for deep causes and elegant analogies.

Recently, Ilya celebrated his seventieth birthday, but, knowing Prigogine, we very well realize that this is a purely conventional date, for he will surely continue to be as active and full of ideas as ever. His friends, colleagues, and students, many of whom contributed to this volume, wish him many healthy and happy years and look forward to his new explorations of fundamental questions in science.

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