

Preface

The *International Conference on Quark Nuclear Physics 2002 (QNP2002)* was held in the Forschungszentrum Jülich from June 9 to 14, 2002. It was organized by the Institute of Nuclear Physics (IKP) at the Forschungszentrum Jülich, together with the Universities of Bonn und Mainz.

This meeting takes place every two years, and was the successor to QNP2000 which was held in Adelaide. QNP2002 brought together about 200 scientists from 25 countries who met for their scientific work in the Forschungszentrum, but spent their free time in the medieval city of Aachen, the former capital of Charles the Great.

The particular feature of this conference is that it provides a comprehensive overview of the attempts in understanding hadrons and nuclei, including dense matter, in terms of their fundamental constituents, the quarks and the gluons. One of the basic themes of the program was that fact that we do have an underlying theory of strongly interacting particles, namely the QCD. For that reason, the experimental topics covered during the meeting ranged from precision measurements with hadronic and electromagnetic probes to ultra-relativistic heavy-ion reactions. Correspondingly, the theoretical topics spanned an equally wide range, including perturbative and lattice QCD calculations as well as effective theories and QCD motivated quark models. In the morning sessions invited reviews were given. In the afternoon twelve topical parallel sessions, directed by conveners, summarized the newest research results.

The conferences was sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation, the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft (BMBF), the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (TJNAF), the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), the Mainz Microtron Facility (MAMI), the University of Bonn, Ohio University, and the Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ).

We would like to thank all the sponsors, the members of the Advisory Committee and the Program Committee for their contributions to make the conference a very successful one.

Much of the organizational work was done by our conference secretary, Roswitha Bley, who carried out this demanding task in a professional way. We also want to thank the staff of the Tagungsbüro of the Forschungszentrum Jülich, who were responsible for the organization of hotels, the companion program and the outstanding conference dinner in Aachen's historical Aula Carolina.

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Editors