

## Preface

The *Fourth International Conference on Exotic Nuclei and Atomic Masses* (ENAM'04) was held on September 12-16, 2004 at the Southern Pine Conference Center of Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA, USA and was organized by the Physics Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). The conference has gained the status of the premier meeting for the physics of nuclei far from stability. The measurements and modelling of atomic masses, as well as the studies using radioactive beams are creating a substantial part of the scientific program. The *ENAM* conference series began after the joint meeting of the *Nuclei Far from Stability (NFFS)* and on *Atomic Masses and Fundamental Constants (AMCO)* series in 1992. Previous conferences were held in 2001 (Hämeenlinna, Finland), 1998 (Bellaire, MI, USA), and 1995 (Arles, France).

ENAM'04 welcomed 280 participants from 23 countries. Over 280 abstracts were submitted and considered by the International Advisory Committee. More than 125 oral presentations were made including 38 invited, 49 contributed and 43 short “poster advertising” talks. Over 160 posters were on display during the meeting. Many thanks go to all contributors whose work illustrates the tremendous progress in the field of exotic nuclei and atomic masses achieved during last three years. The organizers would like to express their particularly warm thanks to Juha Äystö of the University of Jyväskylä for his summary talk, which is included here, and to the many colleagues who served as referees to this volume. The papers in this volume are published in EPJ A direct and are accessible free of charge on the internet ([www.eurphysj.org](http://www.eurphysj.org)). A bound and printed volume can be ordered from Springer.

The conference site, Callaway Gardens, offered a professionally equipped conference center with pleasant surroundings and leisure opportunities which contributed to a successful meeting. The staff of Callaway Gardens, lead by Pam Sanners, was extremely helpful and responded quickly to all requests. Even Hurricane Ivan (see fig. 1) respected the scientific part of the meeting by waiting one hour after Juha's summary to deliver a power failure.

Two music performances made our evenings more enjoyable. The Tennessee Schmultz featuring Dan Shapira of ORNL welcomed the participants on Sunday and inspired the dancers among us with the Klezmer-style Tennessee Schmultz Waltz. George Carere's Dixieland Stompers and Riverboat Drifters, enhanced by trumpeter Cary Davids



**Fig. 1.** Many thanks to Carl Gross' brother Jim who provided daily updates on Ivan's path from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL. Photo courtesy of NOAA.

of Argonne National Laboratory, entertained us during the banquet. Peter Butler of CERN/University of Liverpool offered a few comments and jokes and Aaldert Wapstra received a SUNAMCO medal for his work on atomic masses.

We thank our Institutional and Business Supporters, listed on the following pages, for their financial support as well as their products which we use every day in our research. Generous support from our Institutional Supporters permitted us to offer financial assistance to 67 participants most of whom were students and postdocs. In fact, the average age of a conference attendee was only 42. Finally, we acknowledge the long hours of work by the Local Organizing Committee and especially to Ann McCoy, Robert Varner, Felix Liang, Sherry Lamb, and Mary Ruth Lay. Without you, this conference could not succeed.

We all look forward to the next ENAM conference which will be organized in Poland, and we wish its chairman, Marek Pfützner, the very best.

Carl Gross  
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