

Preface

The Conference on Neutron Scattering (CNS-04) was held at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, India, during 2–4 January 2004. It was sponsored by the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India. The conference was attended by about 150 participants including 15 invited speakers from Austria, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland and UK. In all, 27 invited talks and 80 contributory papers were presented. Besides the scientific program, the participants had the privilege of listening to an evening talk on the first day of the conference entitled ‘Reminiscences of early years of neutron scattering’ by P K Iyengar, the founder of neutron scattering program in India. Dr Iyengar talked eloquently with nostalgic memories of his scientific associations in India and abroad and of the rich variety of activities in the early ‘golden years’ when the excitement in the field had just set in.

The contributed papers (about 80) were displayed as posters on all the three days of the conference. These covered different aspects of structure (diffraction and SANS), dynamics (inelastic and quasi-elastic scattering), neutron optics and neutron interferometry. In addition, there were some posters on neutron activation analysis and neutron scattering techniques as well. The variety of materials studied being quite wide is attributable to strong collaborations within India between BARC and the university system, mediated by Inter-University Consortium for DAE facilities (IUC-DAEF). Given a sizeable neutron scattering community in India that will continue to grow, it will be beneficial to more frequently hold such conferences in India, at suitable intervals.

The conference organization owes its success to the efforts of many individuals, especially the staff members of Solid State Physics Division, and various agencies in BARC. We express our gratitude to all of them. Our thanks are due to all participants for their contributions and the referees of the papers for sparing their time and early responses in most cases. We are grateful to the Advisory Committee members for their advice and suggestions for invited talks and speakers. We also put on record our thanks to Dr V C Sahni, Director, Physics Group, BARC and Director, Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore, for his unstinted support for the Conference, to Dr M Ramanadham, Solid State Physics Division, for his proactive help, to Dr J P Mittal and Dr S Kailas for their enabling role as the office bearers of BRNS and to Dr G Relhan from BRNS for guidance in several matters.

Lastly, we thank the Editorial Board of *Pramana – J. Phys.* for agreeing to bring out the conference proceedings. We especially thank G Chandramohan and other members of the *Pramana* editorial office for their efforts throughout the publication process.

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This issue includes two articles on neutron beam research in India and the invited papers. The contributed papers are due to appear in the next issue.

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