

Preface

Nuclear quadrupole interactions are important in many areas of science and every two years the International Symposium devoted to NQI assembles involved scientists, bringing in an appreciable amount of both continuative and fully original work. A most appealing aspect of this area of science is the astonishing variety of experimental techniques and theoretical methods involved.

As members of the local Organizing Committee, we believe that the XIVth International Symposium on Nuclear Quadrupole Interactions, held in Pisa from the 20th to the 25th of July 1997, was gladly attended also because Italy, and Pisa in particular is a pleasant place to stay in, open to everyone in the world.

This special number of *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung* collects original contributions presented at the Symposium and submitted for publication; they were selected on the basis of the normal refereeing procedure and subject to the usual high standards required for publication in this *Zeitschrift*. The material is ample enough in scope and coverage to reflect a vivid image of the state of the art in the field and to be a positive omen for the next Symposium to be held in Leipzig in 1999.

We express our thanks to all those whose work enabled the Symposium and its Proceedings.

First of all, the International NQI Committee deserves our appreciation for the help given in the selection of outstanding researchers for the plenary and invited talks.

Special thanks are due to the secretariat people within the Organizing Committee for their dedication to make the Symposium both profitable and enjoyable.

We would then like to acknowledge support from the following institutions and companies: Università degli Studi di Pisa; Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche; MTCI-CNR; INCM Consortium; Cassa di Risparmio di Pisa; Bruker Spectrospin Italy; Varian S.p.A.; Vanni Piccinotti Magnetic Resonance (Florence); APT Massa-Carrara.

And finally, as guest Editors, we wish to thank all those who submitted their original high quality work to be included in these proceedings, as well as all the Referees and the editorial staff of *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung*.

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Pisa, April 1998

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