

Preface

The Seventh Workshop on High Energy Physics Phenomenology (WHEPP-7) was held during 4–15 January 2002, at Harish-Chandra Research Institute (HRI), Allahabad, India. This volume comprises most of the plenary talks delivered at the workshop, together with several talks delivered in the four working groups, and reports from the working groups on the projects undertaken there. Unfortunately, we could not obtain the write-ups for a few plenary talks from the speakers, and were thus forced to publish the proceedings without them.

Along the established tradition of the WHEPP series, the strongest emphasis in WHEPP-7 was on working group activities. This time, a few focal themes were identified by each working group, which acted as the pivots for both the talks delivered and the problems investigated. The group reports present only preliminary results of the investigations; some of the studies, in more complete form, have either already appeared in the literature or are on their way to publication. The success of WHEPP, right from its inception, lies in forming nuclei for new collaboration, across India as well as on an international platform, and in this respect WHEPP-7 was no exception.

The WHEPP series was started in 1989, as a result of the untiring efforts by Prof. D P Roy and Prof. Probir Roy, to both of whom younger physicists are indebted in many ways. The high-energy community of our country used the occasion of WHEPP-7 to pay homage to these two personalities, at a special function chaired by Amitava Raychaudhuri.

For the first time, WHEPP-7 got most of its funding from different research institutes of India; we welcome this as a remarkable demonstration of the commitment of the Indian scientific community to the cause of high energy physics. The institutes to support us in this manner are Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, and Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, to all of whom we express our gratitude. In addition, the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences, Government of India, were also generous enough to come forward with valuable funding for WHEPP-7. Our most sincere thanks are due to them.

Prof. H S Mani was the Director of HRI when it was chosen as the venue for WHEPP-7. Prof. Mani, whose leadership has been instrumental in building one of the largest theoretical high energy physics groups in India at this institute, took a keen interest in this workshop from the very beginning, and in fact went out of his way to sanction the seed money for the workshop, which turned out to be by far the largest single contribution to WHEPP-7. We are all extremely grateful to him. Prof. Ravi S Kulkarni, the successor to Prof. Mani, was at the helm when WHEPP-7 took place. He also readily agreed to provide us with all the requisite support, for which he deserves our sincere thanks.

The members of HRI, including the administrative and support staff, helped us enormously both before and during WHEPP-7. It is in fact their combined contribution that was responsible in ensuring all necessary facilities and creating a congenial atmosphere where intense scientific activity can be fostered in the best possible form.

The most important components of any workshop of this kind are its participants. We thank all of them for their enthusiastic involvement, especially in the working group activities. Needless to say, all the speakers and working group coordinators were also untiring in making WHEPP-7 a success. We also wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude

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to all the members of the National Organising Committee for taking upon themselves the entire planning procedure that lasted nearly a year.

Finally, we are grateful to our colleague Partha Konar, HRI, who worked perhaps harder than anyone else on the compilation of the proceedings.

Biswarup Mukhopadhyaya

Rohini M Godbole

Guest Editors