

Editorial

According to the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), Brazil has become the world's sixth largest economy in 2011. However, among the many challenges lying ahead, providing a quality and critical education is the important one. The Young Researchers Meeting is an annual event that takes this challenge into account and attempts to gather students in a environment where they can learn and discuss science and open their minds.

The idea of a meeting organized by the graduate students dates back to 1999, when the renowned professor Gilles Cohen-Tannoudji (Saclay, France) came to Brazil and visited our Institute, during an evaluation of graduate schools. Cohen-Tannoudji observed that the bureaucracy could be reduced and that graduate students could have their own meeting, as was already done in France by that time. Well, although we still have bureaucracy, in 2000 we were able to organize the first Young Researchers Meeting. In this first edition, there was already a large attendance, which increased over time.

In 2011, we have realized the eleventh edition. For the first time, the official language was english and, in spite of the general fear that the students would be shy and uncomfortable, the discussions were even more exciting than before! The number of participants was also impressive: eighty five participants coming from different universities all over the world. Nine of them were renowned professors that gave interesting talks covering many areas of physics: quantum optics and quantum information (Prof. Paulo Henrique Souto Ribeiro, UFRJ), new phenomena in optomechanics (Thiago Pedro Mayer Alegre, UNICAMP), first-principles simulations in condensed matter physics and their application to giant planets (Prof. Burkhard Militzer, University of California - Berkeley), carbon nanostructures and their applications (Prof. Ado Jorio Vasconcelos, UFMG), current status of the standard model (Prof. David Griffiths), astrophysics of the ultra high energy cosmic rays detected by the Pierre Auger Observatory (Prof. Rogério Menezes de Almeida), biophysics (Robert Stark - Technische Universität Darmstadt), medical physics and therapies (Prof. Sandro Guedes - UNICAMP) and a very nice view from a physicist that went to the Amazon forest to teach physics to native americans (Prof. Ennio Candotti). The students came from four different states in Brazil and for the first time we greeted students from Colombia too. They presented ten oral sessions and twenty one posters on very interesting topics of physics.

We thank the financial support of the Graduate Students Association and the Graduate coordination. As the british educator Sir William "Eric" Kinloch Anderson once said: "It is only by introducing the young to great literature, drama and music, and to the excitement of great science that we open to them the possibilities that lie within the human spirit - enable them to see visions and dream dreams" .

Organizing Committee