

## Preface

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Australia has a long history of using accelerators for research in fields as diverse as physics, geology, medical science and industry [1]. The first Australian accelerator facility began operating at the University of Melbourne in 1938. Today, accelerator facilities across Australia serve as catalysts for collaboration, as researchers from a wide range of disciplines and institutions at home and abroad make use of beams and detector systems at our local facilities. Since 2010, many of these facilities have established strong cooperative links through a new umbrella organisation, the Australian Collaboration for Accelerator Science (ACAS).

In order to celebrate Australia's tradition of excellence in accelerator-based research and encourage the formation of new research partnerships, the first Heavy Ion Accelerator Symposium on Fundamental and Applied Science (HIAS) was held on the 11-13th of April 2012, at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Fifty-one talks and 6 posters were presented, covering topics in basic nuclear research, astrophysics, accelerator mass spectrometry, environmental research, material research, medical physics, accelerator development and instrumentation. The symposium had 65 registered attendees from 18 institutions. From Australia, representatives from the following institutions attended:

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology  
Organisation (ANSTO, NSW),  
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research  
Organisation (CSIRO, NSW and VIC),  
University of New South Wales (UNSW, NSW),  
University of Wollongong (NSW),  
Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA,  
UNSW, ACT),  
Australian Synchrotron (VIC),  
University of Melbourne (VIC),  
Royal Adelaide Hospital (SA),  
University of Adelaide (SA) and  
The Australian National University (ANU, ACT).



HIAS 2012 Attendees

The symposium also attracted international attendees from:

University of Birmingham (UK),  
Centre for Theoretical Chemistry and Physics,  
Massey University (NZ),  
Institute for Plasma Research (India),  
Japan Atomic Energy Agency (Japan) and  
Yale University (USA).

By bringing together experts and the user community to discuss the full spectrum of accelerator-based fundamental and applied research, and showcasing the state-of-the-art instrumentation the community is currently developing, this symposium established a forum for developing cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary links. Plans for the next Heavy Ion Accelerator Symposium, to be held on 8-12 April 2013 at the ANU in Canberra, are already in progress.

## References

1. T.R. Ophel, Nucl. Instr. Meth. in Phys. Res. A **382** (1996) 20-31.