

Preface

The Fifteenth International Symposium on Capture Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy and Related Topics (CGS15) was organized by Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf (HZDR) and Technische Universität (TU) Dresden and held at TU Dresden from August 25 to August 29, 2014.

CGS15 was the fifteenth symposium in a series that started in Studsvik, Sweden (1969) and continued in Petten, The Netherlands (1974); Brookhaven, USA (1978); Grenoble, France (1981); Knoxville, USA (1984); Leuven, Belgium (1987); Asilomar, USA (1990); Fribourg, Switzerland (1993); Budapest, Hungary (1996); Santa Fe, USA (1999); Prague, Czech Republic (2002), South Bend, USA (2005), Cologne, Germany (2008) and Guelph, Canada (2011).

This conference continued the general themes of earlier meetings with special emphasis on gamma-ray spectroscopy used in neutron capture and also in a wider context in nuclear structure, nuclear reactions, nuclear astrophysics, statistical properties of nuclei, nuclear probes for fundamental physics, nuclear data, novel techniques and applications.

The international advisory committee suggested a huge number of speakers and took care to have a selection of well-established researchers as well as the young generation of researchers. To accommodate as many talks as possible, parallel sessions were conducted for the various topics which allowed us to schedule 87 invited talks. The program committee selected 46 from the 71 contributed abstracts for oral presentation. In addition, 25 posters were presented during the poster session on Tuesday evening along with drinks and snacks in a relaxed atmosphere.

The social program included a welcoming reception on Monday evening which provided an engaging atmosphere for getting to know each other and starting discussions. The excursion on Wednesday brought us to the ancient fortress “Königstein”, from where one has an impressive overview of the landscape of the so-called “Saxon Switzerland”. The day was concluded with the conference dinner in a restaurant along the banks of the Elbe river.

In a special lunch meeting on Thursday, two bids for hosting the next conference in the series were discussed by members of the advisory and program committees. After a considerable debate, it was decided that Prof. Yang Sun from Shanghai Jiao Tong University will chair CGS16 in 2017.

Although being just one in a long series of conferences, CGS15 attracted many participants from all over the world. We counted about 170 participants, among them about 50 from America and 15 from China, Japan and Korea. Several participants were regular attendees of the CGS series. Here, I want to mention in particular Prof. Till von Egidy from TU München who has attended all 15 conferences. In the concluding remarks on CGS15, Prof. von Egidy gave us an interesting and entertaining summary of the history of the CGS series.

The present proceedings complete the work on CGS15. The organization of this conference was a large effort for the groups at HZDR and TU Dresden. I want to thank all my colleagues who helped to make this conference successful. In particular, I want to mention Kristin Walter, who handled the administrative issues at TU Dresden, our institute secretary, Sirit Vellguth, and Juliane Kranz from the finance department of HZDR. Special thanks go to my colleagues of the Nuclear

Physics division of HZDR for their help in organizing the conference and their assistance during the sessions of the conference. Here, Ralph Massarczyk deserves special mention.

Finally, I want to express my best wishes to Yang Sun as he chairs the organization of CGS16. I look forward to this meeting in Shanghai in 2017 and hope to see all of you there.

Ronald Schwengner
(*Chairman of CGS15*)