

## Preface

In September 2015 the annual Heavy Ion Accelerator Symposium took place at the Australian National University (ANU). On this occasion the special purpose of the Symposium was to celebrate the life and achievements of Professor George Dracoulis, who sadly passed away in June 2014. George was a meticulous researcher who strove for perfection. He had high standards, not just for himself, but for his colleagues, post-docs and students. As one of his closest colleagues and collaborators put it ‘if George had measured it, then you knew it was right’. George joined the ANU Department of Nuclear Physics around the time of the commissioning of the 14UD Pelletron accelerator and played a major role in establishing the ANU laboratory as one of the most respected nuclear-physics laboratories in the world, a legacy that continues today. George provided leadership as Head of Department from 1992 until his retirement in 2009. The Symposium was designed to not only look back at George’s legacy, but also to look forward and discuss current and future research growing out of those achievements. These proceedings give a representation of these goals; a number of articles are directly related to fields George was most prominent in, and others build upon these topics, looking to the future.

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