

Foreword

The 2016 edition of the école thématique of the Société Française de la Neutronique (SFN) was organized together with the Swedish neutron scattering society (SNSS) as a four days workshop at Uppsala University from Dec. 6 to 9 and focused on Neutron Scattering: Applications to soft matter. Organizing the school in Sweden emerged from a series of joint teaching events during the last years and the fact that Sweden will host the forthcoming European Spallation Source (ESS). 23 students and twelve teachers gathered at temperatures well below zero degrees at Ångström laboratory in Uppsala, about 80 km north of Stockholm. The first day of the winterschool was dedicated to the general introduction of soft matter and neutron scattering presented by Julian Oberdisse, Montpellier, and Thomas Ederth, Linköping. The rest of the school introduced the different experimental methods which are the most relevant to soft matter research as well as recent scientific challenges in the field. Thursday, Dec. 8, was almost exclusively dedicated to a journey at the Nobel lectures in Stockholm. The participants left Uppsala early in the morning by bus to arrive in time for the best seats in Magna Aula to listen to the Physics, Chemistry and Economy 2016 laureates. Inspired by the presentations on topological effects, molecular machines and limitations of contracts, the students returned to Uppsala in the late afternoon to listen to lectures on neutron scattering applied to biological systems. This issue is dedicated to the lecture notes of the school.