

## Preface

The International Conference on Nuclear Structure and Related Topics (NSRT) is a traditional conference that was established by the nuclear physics community of the Bogoliubov Laboratory of Theoretical Physics (BLTP) at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (Dubna, Russia). The idea was to bring together theoreticians and experimentalists working in the field of low-energy nuclear physics and thus to extend international contacts of Dubna physicists.

The 8th NSRT Conference (NSRT18) was held on June 3-9, Burgas, Bulgaria. It was organized commonly by the BLTP and the Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy (INRNE), the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria. The Conference was attended by more than 80 participants from 19 countries of Europe, Asia, North and South America and Africa.

Naturally, the Conference Program was closely related to the current studies in low-energy nuclear physics at JINR and INRNE. This year, the most widely presented topics were microscopic models for nuclear excitations, the structure of exotic nuclei and clustering phenomena in nuclear structure and reactions. Also, much attention was paid to the nuclear spin-isospin degrees of freedom, specifically, to the Gamow-Teller resonance, and microscopic approaches to calculating the probabilities of various types of nuclear beta decay, including double beta decay and double neutrinoless beta decay. This theme is closely related with mechanisms of different spectacular astrophysical events like supernovae etc. As a rule, each topic was covered both theoretical and experimental talks. A nice feature of the Conference was a sizable number of young motivated participants who brought a renewed activity and enthusiasm in the conference atmosphere.

An impressive excursion to the ancient cities Nessebar and Sozopol added cultural value and indispensable diversity to the meeting.

We look forward to seeing many familiar, and hopefully new faces as well, at NSRT21.

With best wishes,  
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Co-chairmen NSRT18  
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