

The Sixth Torino Workshop

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Nuclear astrophysics is about 50 years old. It grew from nuclear physics and was nurtured by those with an interest in astrophysics. A milestone was the publication of the seminal paper of Geoffrey Burbidge, Margaret Burbidge, Willy Fowler and Fred Hoyle in 1957. Since then, it has become a mainstay of modern astrophysics, and has a natural and especially close link to stellar astrophysics.

But there has been a revolution in recent years, which has seen the isolation and analysis of circumstellar dust grains, recovered from meteorites. These ‘pre-solar’ grains (indicating that they predate the solar system, and survived the various processes associated with its formation) have provided incomparable and revolutionary data of exceptional quality. It is now common to have access to isotopic abundance ratios for major elements as well as for trace elements, and these can be magnificent indications for processes active in the parent star.

Much of the presolar grain analysis has been performed on samples of the Murchison meteorite, which fell around the little town of Murchison, near Melbourne, in 1969. The time was right for a workshop dedicated to the astrophysics

learned from this analysis, and we are pleased to present some of the papers in this issue of *PASA*.

This workshop was also the sixth in a series of workshops on nuclear astrophysics, initiated at Torino University. We are proud to continue the name and the tradition of these workshops.

This was only the second Torino workshop held outside of Italy. The first was organised by Manuel Forestini, in France. Tragically, Manuel suffered a fatal heart attack on March 11, 2003. Manuel worked in many areas of stellar evolution, and was the author of a textbook on the subject. But his main area was AGB stars, and he has contributed much to our understanding of these complex objects, and especially their nucleosynthesis. Manuel did everything with passion and good humour, and was a very dear friend and a valued collaborator. We wish to dedicate this meeting to his memory, his science and his friendship.

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