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Preface Quarks, Hadrons and Nuclei

There has been a broad consensus in the Australian physics community that there is a need for a National Institute for Theoretical Physics. The National Committee for Physics has identified Adelaide as the site for this Institute with the Australian National University also having a key role. While the Australian Research Council finds a way to provide the necessary stable, long-term funding, we have been fortunate to receive very strong support from the South Australian government, the University of Adelaide, and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

The workshop on 'Quarks, Hadrons and Nuclei' was the fourth in a series of workshops held at the proposed site of the National Institute at 10 Pulteney Street, Adelaide. However, it was the first meeting to have approximately equal numbers of participants from within and outside Australia. Given the high quality of basic science in Asia and particularly in Japan it is vital that our National Institute forges strong research links in the region. It was in clear recognition of this fact that the South Australian Development Council provided generous support for this specific purpose. All of the participants join us in warmly acknowledging that generosity and vision.

The primary aim of the workshop was to bring together Australian and Japanese theoretical physicists with common research interests to learn about each other's work and to explore possible future research collaboration. The high quality of the participants (including representatives from New Zealand, Germany and France as well as Japan and Australia) ensured a lively atmosphere. Excellent presentations and an informal atmosphere encouraged free discussion—not only of the strengths of the work presented but also of ways in which it might be improved. This is, of course, a vital aspect of a successful workshop.

For the numerous students who attended from around Australia, as well as from Adelaide and Japan, this was an outstanding opportunity to learn first hand about the major unresolved questions in their chosen field from some of the world leaders.

We wish to thank the members of the International Advisory Committee for their invaluable advice concerning the program: R. Delbourgo (Hobart), B. H. J. McKellar (Melbourne), T. Matsui (Kyoto), A. W. Thomas (Adelaide), H. Toki (Osaka) and K. Yazaki (Tokyo).

On behalf of all of the attendees we would like to thank Mrs Sharon Johnson for the efficient and friendly way in which she dealt with so many of the organisational details. Finally, we very much hope that this will be just the first of many joint meetings amongst theoretical physicists based in our region.

Koichi Saito, Anthony W. Thomas and Anthony G. Williams

Guest Editors, December 1996