

## Editorial

The journal *Acta Physica Hungarica* (APH), reflecting the general trend of European unification, is being merged into *The European Physical Journal* (EPJ) — effective starting the first issue of 2007. Volume A, the journal of *Heavy Ion Physics*, will be part of the volume EPJ A: *Hadrons and Nuclei*. The younger volume APH B: *Quantum Electronics*, will be merged into EPJ D: *Atomic, Molecular, Optical and Plasma Physics*.

Not coincidentally, the present Editor-in-Chief of APH, *Tamás Biró*, and the present Co-Editor for APH B, *Péter Domokos*, are already Co-Editors by The European Physical Journal volumes A and D, respectively. And, naturally, this situation will help the redirection of submissions during the transient period.

The European Physical Journal, co-published by *Springer-Verlag*, *EDP Sciences* and *La Societa Italiana di Fisica*, was launched in the late 90's to create a unified European-based platform for worldwide physics publishing. Since then, EPJ has gradually and successfully been integrated over the years through cooperation with renowned national initiatives like *Anales de Fisica*, *Czechoslovak Journal of Physics*, *Il Nuovo Cimento*, *Journal de Physique*, *Portugaliae Physica* and *Zeitschrift für Physik*. The merger of *Acta Physica Hungarica* into EPJ thus continues a well-defined and fruitful trend.

The EPJ publishing consortium is counselled by a Scientific Advisory Committee which includes representatives from a majority of European physical societies and academies, such as the *European Physical Society* (EPS), the *Physical Societies* of Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. Hungary is represented in this counselling body by a common delegate of the *Roland Eötvös Physical Society* (ELFT) and the *Hungarian Academy of Sciences* (MTA).

Looking back through its history since the early fifties, it should be noted that *Acta Physica Hungarica* has undergone several changes. The turning towards a specific emerging research field was signalled by its re-baptism as the journal of *Heavy-Ion Physics* in the early nineties. Then, at the dawn of the 21st century, as the new field *Quantum Electronics* emerged, this made it necessary to split the journal into two series and to return to the original name of *Acta Physica Hungarica*. It is unfortunate if these changes have caused complications in citing articles from our journal, but changes always have their price.

We are especially optimistic to start this new venture, since we think that “what belongs together should grow together”.

We would like to thank the international Heavy Ion and Quantum Electronics communities for their support of *Acta Physica Hungarica*, which they may have expressed as authors, referees and readers of our issues. We would also like to

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encourage a continuation of this support and so successfully to fill with first class scientific content these pages in the new era of APH's existence as part of The European Physical Journal.

I myself like to express my thanks, for their enthusiastic work and devotion to raising the quality of APH steadily, to the former and present Editors of APH, to *István Lovas*, to *László P. Csernai*, to *Aladár Czitrovsky* and to *György Wolf*. Special thanks are also due to the Technical Editor *Gábor Hock*, whose work was indispensable for the effective functioning of the Editorial Office online and for preparing manuscripts for the final publication by the *Akadémiai Kiadó* (Budapest). We are also indebted to our *Honorary Editors* and *Members of the International Editorial Board* who provided their support by lending their names and frequently giving good advice for a good cause. Last but not least, we thank the considerable number of case-by-case editors of topical issues, usually closely related to an important scientific event in the field, for their help in collecting and channelling hundreds of qualified contributions to *Acta Physica Hungarica*.

At this point I would like to call your attention to the fact that future submissions can only be treated as submissions to *The European Physical Journal* (<http://www.eurphysj.org>). Prospective authors are expected to use the direct electronic submission and manuscript handling portal at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/epja>, or with the respective endings of */epjb*, */epjc* or */epjd* for other sections of the journal.

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