

## Foreword

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*ABSTRACT: A foreword to 27th Johns Hopkins Workshop on Current Problems in Particle Theory: Symmetries and Mysteries of M Theory*

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The conference was the 27th in the series and was held in Göteborg, Sweden, on August 24-26, 2003. It was the third time that the group in Göteborg organized this workshop. As in the past the purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for theoretical physicists from around the world to discuss problems at the forefront of particle physics. The discussions were concentrated around invited talks with ample time for discussions also during lunches and evenings. The meeting was held like in 1998 at the very scenic Hotel Novotel in the harbour of Göteborg, where all the participants also stayed.

The title of the workshop was

SYMMETRIES  
&  
MYSTERIES  
OF M-THEORY

The lay-out of the title was meant to symbolize the huge web of relations that exist between M-theory and Yang-Mills Theory. The speakers discussed new results ranging from M-theory over Superstring Theory to Yang-Mills Theory. Some emphasis was put on eleven-dimensional theories where the newly found Kac-Moody symmetries were described. Also higher spin field theories was a popular subject. All in all we believe that the talks represented the frontline in the subject as of that summer.

The workshop was financed mainly by the Nobel Committee for Physics. They paid for the expenses of all the lecturers. The local expenses were covered by grants from the Hasselblad Foundation and Wilhelm och Martina Lundgrens Vetenskapsfond. The Johns Hopkins supported as usual the advertizing costs. We are very grateful to all these contributors who made the workshop possible.

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\*Speaker.

Last but not least we must thank Yvonne Steen who single-handedly took care of almost all administration. She was the secretary, negotiator, travel agent and inspirator. She made life very easy for the organizers. We would also like to thank the members of the group in Göteborg for their assistance in organizing the workshop. Finally we would like to thank Szusza and Gabor Domokos for their continued effort to keep the organisation of these workshops together.

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