

Preface

Professor S Chandrasekhar was born on 19-10-1910. As a part of commemorating the birth centenary of this distinguished astrophysicist and Nobel laureate, an international conference was organized at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore from 7 to 11 December 2010.

In addition to the IIA (Bangalore), the Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi), Indian Academy of Sciences (Bangalore), National Academy of Sciences (Allahabad), Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (Pune), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (Mumbai), Physical Research Laboratory (Ahmedabad), Harishchandra Research Institute (Allahabad), and Institute for Mathematical Sciences (Chennai) were sponsors of the meeting and the local organizational support was provided by the IIA.

This special issue of *Pramana – J. Phys.* carries the written versions of the plenary lectures delivered at the meeting (excepting those by E Vishniac and R Wald who could not contribute). It is hoped that a contemporary overview of the different topics in astrophysics that Chandra had worked on will be of interest and use to the physics community in India and the world.

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(Guest Editor)