

WELCOME WORDS

Ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the organizing committee I welcome you. It is a pleasure for us to participate together with 80 astronomers from Europe, Asia, America and, in particular, from Mexico in this symposium held to honor Eugenio Emilio Mendoza Villarreal. Several of the subjects of this symposium are topics that interested Dr. Mendoza during his 40 years of fruitful scientific career: star formation, stellar classification, interstellar reddening and IR photometry. In those topics Dr. Mendoza's contributions were outstanding and they opened new directions in astronomical research. Also important was the formation of new astronomers and physicists through classroom teaching but also teaching the particular techniques of his successful observational work at the telescope. A more detailed description of the scientific career of Dr. Mendoza will be presented by Dr. Carlos Chavarría. In this ceremony, there are renowned astronomers and friends who shared the passion of astronomy with him. I would like to thank all of you for your participation in this meeting. I would like to thank the colleagues that contributed also to the development of this symposium.

Presiding over this ceremony we have the Rector of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Dr. José Sarukhán Kermez, the coordinator of UNAM scientific research, Dr. Gerardo Suárez, and the director of the Instituto de Astronomía, Dr. Gloria Koenisberger.

Margarita Rosado