PREFACE

The symposium *Ionized Gaseous Nebulae* was hosted by the Instituto de Astronomía UNAM to celebrate the 60th birthdays of Silvia Torres-Peimbert and Manuel Peimbert. Thus, the main topics of the meeting were focused on subjects in which both Silvia and Manuel have made their main scientific contributions, such as H II regions, planetary nebulae (PNe), and the abundance of chemical elements in our Galaxy and the universe. The conference was held during the week of 2000 November 21–24, in downtown Mexico City. The venue of the conference was *El Colegio Nacional*, a highly prestigious institution dedicated to the enrichment of culture in Mexico. The premises have a rich history; the current building dates from the 18th century but was built on the site of an earlier Aztec temple. This haven of peace in the heart of the bustling city provided a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere to review the present status of the subject, with ample opportunity for informal discussion in its internal courtyards.

The present volume contains all the invited papers, and most of the oral and poster contributions. This gives an updated and well balanced overview of the state of the art in photoionized regions, as well as the impact of Silvia and Manuel in this exciting area of research. We are grateful to the Scientific Organizing Committee,

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for their excellent work with the scientific program, and to the Local Organizing Committee,

> Anabel Arrieta, Leticia Carigi, Patricia Carral, Pedro Colín, Julia Espresate, Will Henney, William Lee, Valentina Luridiana, Marco Martos (Chair), Raúl Mújica, Leonardo Sánchez

for a well-coordinated event. Very special thanks to all the secretaries and students, whose invaluable assistance during the organization of the conference allowed everything to go smoothly. Also, to Elizabeth Themsel for her wonderful work in proof-reading these proceedings and to Juan Carlos Yustis and Sandra Ayala for taking the photographs that grace the pages of this volume.

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Editors of the proceedings

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