Galaxy Evolution: Theory and Observations (Cozumel, Quintana Roo, México, 8-12 April 2002)
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PREFACE

This volume contains the proceedings of the Symposium *Galaxy Evolution: Theory and Observations* organized by the Instituto de Astronomía, UNAM to honor Claudio Firmani. The meeting was held at Cozumel, Quintana Roo, México from 8 to 12 April, 2002. About 225 participants from 29 countries attended. The program consisted of 10 review papers, 20 targeted talks, 42 contributed talks and more than 140 posters, as well as 3 panel sessions, where some of the hot and controversial questions in the field were discussed.

The objective of this Symposium was to bring toghether theoreticians and observers to address what we have learned so far and what the main challenges are for the future of our understanding of galaxy formation and evolution. Because of the nature of the problem, the Symposium aimed to strengthen the link between astronomy and cosmology. Aspects which were emphasized include (i) recent theoretical and observational progresses on the key ingredients of galaxy evolution, in particular those which give rise to the morphologic Hubble sequence and the diversity of galaxy populations, (ii) observational data from the nearby and high-redshift universe which are critical for testing the current paradigm of cosmic structure formation, and (iii) the confrontation of ab initio semi-analytical and numerical approaches (from cosmology to galaxies) with backward approaches.

The present volume contains most of the invited, oral and poster contributions, and offers to the reader a well-balanced overview of the state of the art in galaxy formation and evolution. The sections of this book reflect the meeting sections. The volume is available on line in the RevMexAA homepage.

The beauty of the Cozumel island provided to the participants a comfortable, enjoyable and relaxed atmosphere conductive to the exchange of inspiring ideas and lively discussion. Cozumel and the Yucatan Peninsula are, of course, places of great historical richness.

Our warm thanks to everyone involved in the organization and smooth running of the Symposium: **the Scientific Organizing committee** (Vladimir Avila-Reese, Gustavo Bruzual, Guido Chincarini, Richard Ellis, José Franco, Carlos Frenk (Chair), Jay Gallagher, David Hughes, Guinevere Kauffmann, Manuel Peimbert, Alvio Renzini, Chuck Steidel, Alexander Tutukov, and Simon White), the **Local Organizing Committee** (Christine Allen (Chair), Vladimir Avila-Reese, Leticia Carigi, Pedro Colín, Jesús González, Xavier Hernández, Ana María Hidalgo-Gámez, Gabriella Piccinelli, and Antonio Sarmiento), **the students who helped out with technical support** (José I. Cabrera, Alejandro Carrillo, Isaura Fuentes, Antonio Ramírez, Mario Rodríguez, Rodrigo Tapia, and Jesús Zavala), **the technical staff from UNAM** (Eugenia Allen, Carmelo Guzmán, Liliana Hernández, and Juan Carlos Yustis) and **from INAOE** (Rosario Sánchez and Gorgonio Cerón). We also thank Juana Orta for her assistance in the preparation of this volume.

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Finally, we thank the participants, whose oral and poster contributions, questions, discussions, and enthusiasm made the event so enjoyable and scientifically exciting.

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Editors of the proceedings