PREFACE

The Eighth Texas-Mexico Conference on Astrophysics "Energetics of Cosmic Plasmas" was held in Mexico City on October 31 and November 1 & 2, 2002. This conference series has brought together astronomers from Mexico, Texas and other areas of the world and has provided very fruitful scientific exchange among participants and institutions. In this occasion there were more than 70 participants from more than 15 institutions of 5 different countries.

The scientific organizing committee consisted of Miriam Peña (Chair, UNAM), Reggie Dufour (Rice U.), Jose Franco (UNAM), Guillermo García-Segura (UNAM), Fred Hamann (U. Florida), Manuel Peimbert (UNAM), Mauricio Reyes-Ruiz (UNAM), Paul Shapiro (UT), Greg Shields (UT), and Enrique Vázquez-Semadeni (UNAM). The local Organizing Committee consisted of Silvia Torres-Peimbert (Chair), Leticia Carigi, Julia Espresate, Leonid Georgiev, and Marco Martos. Scientific sessions were held at El Colegio Nacional, a great colonial building in downtown Mexico City.

The title of the meeting "ENERGETICS OF COSMIC PLASMAS" emphasized the series' traditional themes on nebular and interstellar studies. The meeting included a wide range of topics such as: Galactic and Extragalactic HII Regions and Planetary Nebulae, ISM and Star Formation, Ionization of Intergalactic Medium at Different Redshifts and Active Galactic Nuclei

The scientific program of the meeting comprised 22 invited talks and more than 30 contributed papers (oral and poster presentations).

The meeting was made possible by the generous support of El Colegio Nacional, the Instituto de Astronomía, UNAM and DGAPA, UNAM (grant 114601). The organizers express their gratitude to the staff of El Colegio Nacional and the Instituto de Astronomía. The cost of this publication has been covered by the Instituto de Astronomía, UNAM.

We would like to thank all the participants for a fruitful and very pleasant meeting.

Miriam Peña (Chair, SOC)

Mauricio Reyes-Ruiz and Enrique Vázquez-Semadeni (Editors)