PREFACE

The Symposium "The Nuclear Region, Host Galaxy and Environment of Active Galaxies" was hosted by the Instituto de Astronomía UNAM to celebrate Deborah Dultzin 60th birthday. The participants to this meeting honored her scientific contribution to the Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) field.

The scientific program involved 12 invited lectures and 35 oral contributions. More than 25 posters were presented and discussed between sessions. The Symposium covered four main topics: I "The Central Engine: Variability, Black-Hole Mass and Accretion"; II "Emission Regions and Circumnuclear Starbursts"; III "Absorbing Regions and Obscuration"; and IV "Host Galaxy and Environment".

The present volume contains the invited lectures, and most of the oral and poster contributions. Current research on some aspects related to AGN are overviewed. In particular, nuclear activity, accretion processes, circumnuclear starbursts, and the role of the environment are surveyed with emphasis on their relationship to the large-scale properties of the host galaxy. Specific topics include black-hole physics, line and continuum variability, emission and absorption line processes, fueling, stellar dynamics of the host galaxy and evolution. Aspects related to the feedback processes produced by the black hole into the near and large scale environment, as well as the feedback processes from the environment on the central engine are addressed as well.

We are grateful to the the Scientific Organizing Committee: Erika Benítez (IAUNAM, Mexico; chair), Catherine Boisson (Obs. Meudon, France), Irene Cruz-González (IAUNAM, Mexico), Josefa Masegosa (IAA, Spain), Elena Pian (INAF, Italy), Iraida Pronik (Crimea AO, Ukraine), Elena Terlevich (INAOE, Mexico), Virginia Trimble (Univ. California,USA), Sueli Viegas (Univ. Sao Paulo, Brazil) and Dawei Xu (Nat. Astron. Obs. of China), for their excellent work with the scientific program.

We also thank to the Local Organizing Committee: Mercedes Andrade (IAUNAM), Erika Benítez (IAUNAM, chair), Vahram Chavushyan (INAOE), Irene Cruz-González (IAUNAM), Alfredo Díaz (IAUNAM), Carmelo Guzmán (IAUNAM), Héctor Hernández-Toledo (IAUNAM), Yair Krongold (IAUNAM), Raúl Mújica (INAOE), Alenka Negrete (IAUNAM), Lila Perrillat (IAUNAM, Secretary) and Angelina Salmerón (IAUNAM), for their great enthusiasm and well-coordinated work done in Huatulco.

In particular, we are grateful for the support given in Huatulco by the Secretaría de Turismo de Oaxaca and the Universidad del Mar.

We especially acknowledge the financial support given by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, through the Dirección General de Asuntos del Personal Académico (DGAPA), the Coordinación de la Investigación Científica (CTIC) and Instituto de Astronomía (IAUNAM), that made possible this wonderful meeting. In particular, we are indebted to the IAUNAM for supporting the publication of this proceedings.

Huatulco provided the perfect environment for the AGN attendees, who had the opportunity to discuss and interact in a beautiful and relaxed atmosphere. Invited speakers delivered excellent contributions, and all participants made this AGN symposium a memorable and successful scientific event.

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Editors of the Proceedings