
Editorial from the Editor in Chief

At the start of a new volume I want to take the opportunity to thank the associate editors and the editorial board members whose terms ended recently for their many years of service to the scientific community and to this journal especially. I personally had a lot of help from all of them, and I dare to ask for their continued support for this journal. The attentive reader may notice quite a change in the editorial team. Therefore this is also the opportunity to welcome the new board members and to wish them success for their editorial work.

During the two preceding years *Laser and Particle Beams* (*LPB*) managed to cover the important developments in our main field, which is the generation and interaction with matter of high intensity laser and particle beams. This certainly includes the physics of high energy density, nuclear fusion, and inertial fusion with all its different basic physics aspects. In 2002 and 2003, we had many contributions from the field of ion induced inertial fusion (Sharkov, 2002), highlighting the remarkable progress with intense ion beams. The status of pulsed power physics and technology was very well documented in detail in a special issue due to the 25th anniversary of the Institute of High Current Electronics, Tomsk (Mesyats, 2003). Also in 2003, *LPB* provided the platform to discuss the instability problems of inertial fusion targets (Schilling, 2003). Two issues in 2003 and 2004 were then devoted to the frontiers of plasma science and technology (Desai, 2003). In 2004, the emphasis of our publications was on interaction processes of ultra-intense and ultra-short laser beams with matter (Honrubia & Tikhonchuk, 2004; Batani & Wooton, 2004; Giulietti, 2004).

Due to the limited number of pages published by our journal per year, it is not possible to publish proceedings, even of relatively small conferences. Therefore published papers solicited through a conference are first of all carefully selected by a guest editor and are then subjected to the regular peer review process. Therefore, they are representative for the current status of the scientific development in the physics field constituting the conference topic. Future guest editorials will, therefore, include a conference summary pointing out the highlights of the meeting.

Laboratory astrophysics is not yet mentioned as one of the topics of *LPB*. However, the availability of very intense to ultra-intense on and laser beams in many laboratories allows to produce astrophysical relevant extreme states of matter under laboratory conditions. There were already contributions in our journal addressing astrophysical issues from a theoretical point of view (Schopper *et al.*, 2003; Zhang *et al.*, 2003). Also experimentalist should feel encouraged to engage in this field and submit their results to this journal.

The editorial team of *LPB* will continue to endeavor to provide a forum for readers and authors as well to publish and discuss exciting new results in our scientific community.

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