

## Editorial

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As an important part of my duty and as a first step as incoming editor to this journal it is a great pleasure for me to thank Professor George H. Miley for his work that he did for over a decade as the editor-in-chief of *Laser and Particle Beams*. During a period of over 20 years, the field, which this journal has set out to address, has experienced enormous progress. **George H. Miley** steered the journal safely through uncharted waters and always found a way to keep the delicate balance between the needs of readers, authors, and the publisher as well. The journal is now regarded to be highly prestigious and it is listed among the top ranking scientific journals with peer review systems. When we compare this journal to others, we have to keep in mind that it is not made by professional journalists but rather by fellow scientists for scientists. During all these years George Miley managed to have this journal serve the needs of the scientific community and he was very successful in this difficult enterprise. Thank you George!

I also want to thank those colleagues who served as associate editors and as board members, and I ask them to continue to contribute to the progress of this journal with the same effort as before. I want to use this editorial also to pay a special tribute to two board members who recently passed away. We will always keep alive the memory of **N.G. Basov** and **A.M. Prokhorov** who contributed so much to our research field and were active members of the editorial board.

Authors and readers are not only customers of the journal, but should continue to view it as their own journal. In this sense I take this opportunity to thank all authors and readers who have contributed to the journal, some of them over a period of many years. Also I like to encourage authors and readers as well to continue their effort. When the *Laser and*

*Particle Beams* journal was founded, no one could have anticipated the fast development of the field. On page two of each journal's front cover the major topics of the journal are listed. One of them is the interaction of high intensity laser and particle beams with matter. The intensity available for laser beams is today in the Petawatt regime and will go beyond soon. This has led to new interaction phenomena like the production of high energetic, high-brilliance particle beams from interaction processes of intense light pulses with matter. Laser and particle beams now open the possibility to investigate matter under extreme conditions of high energy density. This will enable experiments to address astrophysical questions in the laboratory under reproducible conditions. There even seems to evolve a new and promising route to inertial fusion using the combined power of heavy ion beams, laser beams, and light ion beams, where the specific interaction properties of each species is made use of in the fast ignition scheme.

This journal will continue to serve the scientific community with emphasis on topics of pulse power and high energy density. I also want to encourage colleagues from magnetic confinement fusion to use this journal to publish original articles as well as review papers. A special effort will be made to solicit publication of original work in areas related to astrophysics and plasma spectroscopy.

New developments and insights are shaping our field as intensities surpass boundaries that were unimaginable a few years ago, at the same time we are moving to ever-shorter time scales. In all these developments I hope that this journal will have a solid place for presenting the exciting results to the scientific community (first).

*Dieter H.H. Hoffmann*