

Foreword – NOW 2016

The Neutrino Oscillation Workshop NOW 2016 was held in Otranto (Italy) from September 4th to September 11th, 2016. The meeting was organized by the Departments of Physics and by the Sections of the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN) of Bari and Lecce, with the financial support of the Italian Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca (MIUR), of the INFN, and of the Universities of Bari and Salento. The NOW 2016 Workshop belongs to the activities of the “Theoretical Astroparticle Physics” Project of Relevant National Interest (PRIN) which has been cofinanced by the Italian MIUR.

NOW 2016 is the ninth of a series of Workshops, the first of which (NOW 1998) was held at NIKHEF (Amsterdam) in 1998. The second to eighth workshops (NOW 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014) were held in Conca Specchiulla (Otranto, Italy). For the 2016 meeting, we selected as location the "Basiliani Resort" in Otranto. Further information about NOW 2016 and its previous editions can be found at the website <http://www.ba.infn.it/now>. We are also happy to notice that NOW remains among the few, well established “Major Conference Series” in high-energy physics, which have been selected on the SPIRES-HEP conference database: <http://www.slac.stanford.edu/spires/conf/series.shtml>

The project underlying the NOW series is to organize a specialized meeting three months after the International Neutrino Conference, in order to stimulate the exchange of opinions in a truly workshop-like atmosphere, with a few survey talks, short contributions, and ample time for discussion among the participants. The Workshop is focused on one of the hottest topics of contemporary physics, i.e., Neutrino Oscillations, together with its connections with particle physics, cosmic ray physics, astrophysics, and cosmology. Indeed, a growing emphasis is being given to astroparticle physics topics in the Workshop. Starting from NOW 2000, it was decided to publish the Proceedings of this series; in particular, the NOW 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 Proceedings appeared in Nucl. Phys. B (Proc. Suppl.), in Vols. 100, 145, 168, 188, 217, 237-238, and 265-266 respectively.

The theme of NOW 2016 partly reproduces some XVIII century views of Otranto facing the seaside, but taking the liberty to add sky views above the horizon and some references to the five Workshop sessions: (1) Neutrino oscillations: present; (2) Neutrino oscillations: future; (3) Neutrinos masses, states and interactions; (4) Multi-messenger astrophysics; (5) Particle physics in the cosmos. In each Session, one morning plenary session and two afternoon parallel sessions were dedicated to the discussion of recent results and new developments and ideas. These Proceedings can thus be considered as an up-to-date survey of the status and prospects of Neutrino Oscillation Physics (and of closely related fields in Astroparticle Physics) in 2016.

We would like to thank all the participants, a total of about 130 physicists, and in particular the speakers and the conveners who, in collaboration with the members of the Organizing Committee, contributed with enthusiasm to the scientific success of the Workshop.

Special thanks go to all the people actively involved in the organization of the Workshop. The smooth running of the meeting was due to the invaluable work of the Administration Manager Loredana Napolitano (Bari) and of the Secretariat, formed by Daniela Dell'Anna (Lecce), Maria Concetta Gerardi (Lecce), and Antonio Silvestri (Bari), to the commitment and driving expertise of Frosino Spagna (Lecce), to the precious help of the System Manager Enrico Fasanelli and of the Technical Assistants Antonio Forte, Fulvio Ricciardi and Pierluigi Santo (Lecce). Warm thanks are also due to the PhD students and junior post-docs Francesco Capozzi, Valerio D'Andrea, Francesco Forestieri and Stefano Gariazzo, for their enthusiastic collaboration in the organization.

We conclude with the hope that the tenth workshop of the NOW series will take place in Otranto in September 2018.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

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