EDITORIAL

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Selected papers from the Joint 18th International Stellarator Heliotron Workshop and the 10th Asia Pacific Plasma Theory Conference

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Australian National University, Australia **B D Blackwell** Australian National University, Australia **M Zarnstorff** Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, USA The combined 18th International Stellarator Heliotron Workshop and the 10th Asia Pacific Plasma Theory Conference was held at the Australian National University on the NSW south coast between 30 January and 3 February 2012. The purpose of the combined meeting, which was held in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, was to provide a forum for the discussion and dissemination of research in the field of helical fusion magnetic confinement, thereby bridging stellarator and tokamak communities and foster Asia-Pacific regional collaboration in theory and modelling. The meeting combination reflected Australian research activity in 3D toroidal physics and plasma theory and modelling. The conference, which was held as a single event (PLASMA2012) with no parallel sessions, attracted over 120 delegates drawn from 11 nations and spanned topics in plasma physics, materials science and fusion technology development. Particular focii were the experiment and theory of 3D magnetohydrodynamics physics, plasma confinement, diagnostics, waves, zonal flows, fast ions and materials science. This special issue comprises selected papers from the conference: the full program and uploaded presentations can be found at the conference website (www.plasma2012.org.au).

We are very grateful to the sponsors of the conference. The principal sponsor was Thomson Scientific (now renamed Ampegon, www.ampegon.com), which was the contractor for the H-1 radio-frequency transmitter. Other sponsors included the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering, which supported student attendance from Australian universities, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, which sponsored the conference dinner, the IAEA through its technical cooperation program and the journal *Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion* (PPCF), which provided a student prize. The PPCF student prize was awarded to Robert Wilcox of the University of Wisconsin, USA, for his poster on 'Measurement of Reynolds stress flow drive in the HSX Stellarator'. Special thanks go to the staff of Plasma Research Laboratory of the Australian National University, including Uyen Nguyen, the conference secretary; Dr Cormac Corr, the conference treasurer; and Dr David Pretty, who developed and maintains the conference website.

The 19th International Stellarator/Heliotron Workshop and 16th RFP workshop will be held on 16–20 September 2013 at Consorzio RFX, Padova, Italy. The 11th Asia Pacific Plasma Theory Conference will be held in June 2014 on Jeju Island, Korea.