

## FOREWORD

Professor Aureliu Emil Sandulescu is one of the founders of the prestigious Romanian school of nuclear physics. He had a crucial influence on the development of the field of theoretical nuclear physics and on the scientific formation of a whole generation of Romanian nuclear scientists. His novel, challenging scientific ideas have produced a strong impression on his students and collaborators, and his remarkable scientific results have received a high recognition in the nuclear physics community of our country and all over the world.

Author of more than 350 scientific articles, published in the most prestigious national and international journals, with more than 3000 citations, including the presentation in *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1998) of the discovery of a new type of nuclear decay - the heavy ion (cluster) radioactivity, Professor Sandulescu is recognized by the international physics community as one of the most prominent Romanian physicists. Due to his outstanding scientific capacities, correlated with his physical intuition, enthusiasm, stimulating style and human qualities, Professor Sandulescu enjoyed the friendship and collaboration with many worldwide distinguished scientists.

As one of the continuators of Professor Serban Titeica in the field of theoretical physics, Professor Sandulescu was, in turn, a mentor for many young scientists, and even presently he continues to be a brilliant representative of the Romanian physics around the world, an example for young researchers, and not only for them, of a life dedicated to physics.

This special issue of the *Romanian Journal of Physics* is published in the Honour of Professor Sandulescu, and represents an homage for his contribution to science on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The volume contains a collection of significant papers in the field of nuclear physics, and not only, in which many recent research results reveal the importance of the scientific contribution of Professor Sandulescu in both theoretical and experimental nuclear physics. Many of the contributors to this anniversary issue are collaborators or continuators of his impressive scientific activity. We would like to express our gratitude to all the authors who contributed to this celebrating volume.

On the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Professor Sandulescu, we would like to express our appreciation for his long outstanding scientific activity and wish cordially to our Professor, colleague and friend, a long life in good health, scientific and personal achievements, new creative ideas in search of the fascinating mysteries of nuclear physics.

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