

## Preface

The papers of this volume represent the proceedings of the Conference entitled *Ischia Group Theory 2006* which took place at the Jolly Hotel in Ischia (Naples, Italy) from 29th March to 1st April 2006 in honour of Akbar Rhemtulla.

The organizing committee consisted of Trevor Hawkes, Patrizia Longobardi and Mercede Maj. The local committee was formed by Costantino Delizia, Chiara Nicotera, Carmela Sica and Maria Tota, all from the Università di Salerno.

The articles that follow are contributions by the Conference speakers and participants and are mostly in areas close to Akbar Rhemtulla's interests. In particular, the following subjects are represented: combinatorial group theory, varieties of groups, orderable groups, profinite groups, probabilistic methods in group theory, graphs connected with groups, conjugacy and subgroup structure, saturated formations.

A poster session on various topics connected with themes of the Conference augmented the scientific programme.

It is our pleasure to thank:

- all the speakers and the participants,
- the authors for their contributions,
- the referees, who gave generously of their time to review the papers and offer valuable feedback to the authors,
- the staff of the Jolly Hotel for being so accommodating and supportive,
- the friendly and patient staff at World Scientific Publishing for their help and advice, and for producing these proceedings in a professional and timely manner,
- all the sponsors,
- the local committee for its precious help and, in particular, Costantino Delizia and Maria Tota for their technical support in producing these proceedings,
- and, of course, Akbar Rhemtulla for allowing us to celebrate with him.

Trevor Hawkes, Patrizia Longobardi and Mercede Maj  
July 2007