

PREFACE

The *Fifth Latin American Symposium on High Energy Physics* (SILAFAE V) was organized by the National Engineering University (UNI) in Lima, Perú, and took place during the period 12-17 July, 2004. The present volume contains the texts of most of the invited talks delivered at the conference and a selection from among the many contributed presentations including posters.

The general format and style of the conference followed the accepted and well-developed pattern for the series, focusing on the development, refinement and important applications of the techniques of Particle Physics. The intention of the series has always been to cover in a broad and balanced fashion both the entire spectrum of theoretical and experimental tools developed to tackle problems in particle physics and their major fields of application. One of the main aims of the series is to foster the exchange of ideas and techniques among physicists working in such diverse areas as high energy physics, nuclear and subnuclear physics, astrophysics, quantum field theory, relativity and gravitation.

The SILAFAE conferences are now firmly established as being one of the premier series of international meetings in the field. The history of the series itself provides a mirror in which to view the rapid development of this field in Latin America in recent years. The first official meeting in the SILAFAE series was held in Mérida, México in 1996. Later meetings in the series have been SILAFAE II in San Juan de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico in 1998; SILAFAE III in Bogotá, Colombia in 2000; SILAFAE IV in Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil, in 2002; and, finally, the present meeting, SILAFAE V, Lima, Perú in 2004.

A special session was held the first morning of SILAFAE V to honor Dr. Luis Masperi by dedicating the symposium to his memory. During his lifetime Masperi was an enthusiastic member of the Particle Physics community and also one of the prime instigators of the SILAFAE series, helping to shape it as a member of the Scientific Committee. He served as

an inspiration to others throughout his career, especially during his final years when he served as Director of the Latin American Center for Physics (CLAF).

The organization of this SILAFAE in Peru was possible thanks to the financial support of the national agencies *Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería (UNI)*, *Instituto General de Investigación de la UNI (IGI)*, *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONCYTEC)*, *Sociedad Peruana de Física (SOPERFI)*, and the foreign agencies *Centro Latinoamericano de Física (CLAF)*, *International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)*, and *National Science Foundation (NSF)*. Here, the support of some participants by the U. S. National Science Foundation through Award Number 0409377 is gratefully acknowledged. We must thank also to our friendly secretariat Margarita Mendoza.

In this event as well, the Organizing and Scientific Committees deserve great thanks in creating a well-run and productive meeting, with an exciting program of talks and poster presentations. It is a pleasure to thank all of them for their hard work, especially Orlando Pereyra who, as Chairman, has led and guided them throughout.

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(Editor for the Fifth Latin American
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