

Network meetings 01.10.05-30.09.06

The second network meeting was organized by the Madrid node (Instituto de Fisica Teorica - IFT) on Dec 12-13, 2006. Scientists and students (60 participants in total) from all nodes and from all the scientific areas participated, as shown in the meeting's web page:

<http://gesalerico.ft.uam.es/workshops/nwmeet/index.html>

The meeting was combined with the XI-th IFT Christmas workshop

<http://gesalerico.ft.uam.es/workshop11/workshop05.html>

which took place on the three following days 14-16-th December. During the first two days all young researchers of the network along with some other posdocs gave 30 minute talks on their current work (16 talks in total). More senior speakers were concentrated on the second part of the meeting (the XI-th Christmas workshop). In this second part 22 scientists gave talks. The topics covered all the different areas of research present in the network. In addition to the local members of the Madrid node, there were 27 representatives from all the nodes, in particular Oxford (4), Pisa, Polytechnique (3); Saclay, Bonn, CERN, Warsaw, Valencia, Greece (2), and Lisbon, SISSA, Hamburg, INFN Rome, USA (1). The five days' activities were organized in morning and afternoon sessions. Part of the first afternoon was devoted to the administrative meeting among the senior scientists of all the nodes.

In addition to the main network meeting, there were one more major meeting (listed first below) and 8 additional "peripheral" meetings organized and partly funded by the network, where the majority of network nodes participated, that played an important role in the training program of young researchers, the communication among network members and the research and management activities of the network:

- The international conference 'Planck'06 – "From the Planck scale to the Electroweak scale", Paris, France, May 29-June 2, 2006. Organized by the members of Saclay and Polytechnique nodes (E. Dudas, C. Grojean, S. Lavignac and G. Servant). This series of meetings is one of the important events that are annually organized by members of our network. The program focused on the central research efforts undertaken by our network. There had been 42 plenary talks, mostly presented by network members as well as by few invited speakers from the United States and Japan, and 84 parallel talks. A special attention has been devoted to the participation of young postdocs and PhD students. There were about 150 participants and 11 network nodes were represented (Palaiseau, Saclay, Bonn, Greece, Warsaw, INFN, Trieste, Madrid, Valencia, Oxford, CERN), as well as the US team. A coordination meeting of the network also took place among scientists in charge. More information can be found in the web page:

<http://www-spht cea.fr/pisp/grojean/Planck06.html>

- The series of workshops "Flavour in the Era of the LHC", organized by the CERN node at CERN on 7-10 November 2005, 6-8 February 2006 and 15-17 May 2006. The goal of this Workshop is to outline and document a program for flavor physics for the next decade, addressing in particular the complementarity and synergy between the LHC and the flavor factories vis a vis the discovery and exploration potential for new physics. Several members of the network were actively involved in the organization as convenors, while nine nodes were represented (CERN, Lisbon, INFN, Madrid, Valencia, Oxford, Bonn, Trieste, Warsaw), as well as the US team.

- The extended program ‘New Directions Beyond the Standard Model in Field and String Theory’ and the ‘Johns Hopkins workshop : Where do we go from the standard model’ have been co-organized by members of Palaiseau and Madrid nodes (E. Dudas and A. Pomarol) in the Galileo Galilei Institute for Theoretical Physics, Florence, Italy (June 6-8, 2006). The topics included : electroweak symmetry breaking, supersymmetric models and supersymmetry breaking, string vacua and model building, warped compactifications and holography, modifications of gravity and cosmological implications. 81 researchers attended this workshop among which members of 8 network nodes (Palaiseau, INFN, Trieste, CERN, Saclay, Bonn, Madrid, Oxford) and the US team. More information can be found on the web pages:

<http://www.fi.infn.it/GGI/activities/JohnsHopkinsWorkshop.htm>

<http://www.fi.infn.it/GGI/activities/NewDir.html>

- The 2nd “LHC Olympics” meeting was organized by the CERN node at CERN on 9-10 February 2006. About 60 physicists, with expertise ranging from the most theoretic aspects of string theory to experimental physics, took part in this program as witnessed in the meeting’s web site

<http://ph-dep-th.web.cern.ch/ph-dep-th/content2/workshops/lhcOlympics/lhcolympicsII.html>

The goal of the Olympics, is to foster scientific exchange and also collaboration between the string and field theory community and the experimental community, in the forthcoming LHC era. The meeting was declared a success by all participants. A third meeting was also organized in KITP, Santa Barbara on 24-25 August 2006, as part of the ‘String Phenomenology’ program and conference. Eight network nodes were represented (Palaiseau, CERN, Trieste, Saclay, Greece, INFN, Oxford, Madrid), as well as the US team.

-The international conference “HEP2006: Recent Developments in High Energy Physics and Cosmology” organized mainly by the Hellenic Society for the Study of High Energy Physics (Ioannina, Greece, 13-16 April 2006). The total number of participants was about 125. There were given about 80 talks on all the topics covered by the Network. Six network nodes were represented (Greece, CERN, Palaiseau, Saclay, Oxford, Valencia). Many young researchers (postdocs and students) have participated. More details can be found in the web page:

Web site: <http://hep2006.physics.uoi.gr>

- The Cargese Summer School on “Strings and branes: The present paradigm for gauge interactions and cosmology” (May 22-June 3, 2006, France) has been organized by members of the LPTHE subnode (L. Baulieu, P. Windey) and the Saclay node (P. Vanhove). There were 18 lecturers (5 from the network). The lectures topics included : perturbative string and M-theory, Holography, Black hole entropy, Cosmology, String phenomenology, String field theory, Topological Field Theory, Tachyon condensation, D-branes on curved spaces, Non-commutative field theories. There were about 85 participants (ESR, ER and lecturers) among which members of 5 network nodes (Palaiseau, Saclay, INFN, Trieste, CERN) and the US team. Most of the participants presented short talks. More information can be found on the web page:

Web page: <http://string.lpthe.jussieu.fr/cargese/>

- The summer school “Particle Physics and Cosmology: the Fabric of Spacetime”, Les Houches, France, July 31- August 25, 2006. Organized by a member of Saclay node

(C. Grojean). Almost all topics of our network project in the area of cosmology and astroparticles were covered in about 100 hours of lectures. There were 49 students and 17 lecturers (7 members of the network). Four network nodes were represented (Saclay, Oxford, Valencia, CERN), as well as the US team. More information can be found on the web page:

<http://grojean.web.cern.ch/grojean/LesHouches06.html>

- The ICTP Spring School on Superstring Theory and Related Topics (27 March - 4 April 2006) the Summer School in Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics (10 - 21 July 2006) and the Workshop on 'Nongaussianity in Cosmology' (24-28 July 2006), organized by the ICTP group of the Trieste node. There were about 150-200 participants, while several network nodes were represented (CERN, Palaiseau, Trieste, INFN, Oxford and the US team). Many network postdocs and students have attended. More information can be found on the web pages:

http://cdsagenda5.ictp.trieste.it/full_display.php?smr=0&ida=a05197

http://cdsagenda5.ictp.trieste.it/full_display.php?ida=a05213

- The 'International Workshop on The Dark Side of the Universe' (20-24 June 2006) organized by the Madrid node in the IFT in Madrid. In this meeting around 100 senior and postdoc scientists joined together to discuss the interface of Particle Physics and Cosmology, with particular emphasis on the Dark Matter and Dark Energy issues. There were representatives of seven networks nodes (Oxford, Lisbon, Bonn/Hamburg, INFN, Palaiseau/Orsay, Valencia and Madrid). More information can be found on the web page:

<http://dark.ft.uam.es/dsu2006/>