

Foreword

The XXIV International Linear Accelerator Conference, LINAC08, was hosted by TRIUMF and took place during the week of September 29th to October 3rd, 2008 at the Conference Centre in the Canadian city of Victoria, British Columbia. This conference provided a unique opportunity for linear accelerator specialists from around the world to interact professionally and culturally in a relaxed and inspirational atmosphere. Attendance at the conference is by invitation. The large response to the invitations, the quality of the papers and presentations, the participation of many young researchers, the variety of exhibitors and the number of sponsorships all indicate an ongoing and diverse vitality within the Linac community throughout the various world regions.

The venue for the conference was the Victoria Conference Centre and the historic Fairmont Empress Hotel, both located at the heart of the City of Victoria. In order to encourage informal interactions among the delegates, breakfast and lunch were provided in the exhibition floor of the conference centre.

The conference registrations (including the students) totalled 353 from 17 different countries. In addition there were 28 exhibitors with 49 registrations. The conference staff (including the editorial team) totalled 25. Twenty-three students who presented posters at a special session on Sunday were sponsored from conference revenues. These proceedings include 347 of the 382 contributions presented at LINAC08.

Papers were processed during the conference by editors from the JACoW collaboration, under the local leadership of the proceedings coordinator Martin Comyn. We would like to thank the JACoW collaboration for supporting the conference with their well-trained, professional staff. After the conference, Martin together with Jana Thomson and Lorraine King prepared the processed papers for publication. Significant contributions came from Volker Schaa who aided Martin in preparing the proceedings for upload to the JACoW site www.JACoW.org. We apologize for the delay in the circulation of these proceedings; the preparations for the PAC09 conference hosted by TRIUMF proved to be somewhat overwhelming.

One of the goals of the conference programme was to highlight, where possible, young researchers in the field. To this end the conference was opened by Marco Marchetto, a young accelerator physicist from TRIUMF who gave an overview talk on the TRIUMF present and future linear accelerators. In addition, twenty-three students presented their work at a special poster session at the Sunday reception. The winner of the poster session, Joshua Wilson, with his research on twisted waveguides, gave an excellent presentation of his work during the oral programme. There were many significant contributions during the conference from all areas of the linac community. A highlight from the electron community was the progress report on the X-FEL project which promises to be the flag bearer for electron machines over the coming years. The machine is a tremendous technical and industrial challenge and will give the most significant data to date for mass cavity production and performance in the lead up to an ILC decision. On the hadron front there were performance talks from SNS and J-PARC as well as project status presentations from SARAF and SPIRAL-II and future projects Project-X and IFMIF. Several excellent overview presentations summarized the many technical achievements of the community over the last few years. Reports from the fields of laser and plasma acceleration were truly inspiring. The conference was closed by an illuminating address by Nigel Lockyer, Director of TRIUMF, on the significance of the on-going search for the Higgs Boson.

The cultural programme included a reception at the Royal British Columbia Museum where guests were officially welcomed by the City of Victoria and given an opportunity to sample some of the traditional food of the region, a sea excursion to observe first-hand the local whales in their natural habitat and a visit to the spectacular Butchart Gardens. The conference concluded with an opportunity for registrants to visit the TRIUMF laboratory in Vancouver.

The local organizing team under the leadership of Amiya Mitra and the conference coordination under the leadership of Sandi Miller managed the conference logistics professionally.

We wish to thank delegates, exhibitors, students and staff for making this conference a rewarding experience.



Bob Laxdal
Scientific Programme Chair



Paul W. Schmor
LINAC08 Conference Chair

