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in the
QCD Phase Diagram

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Editors
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Foreword

This is an important collection of short articles covering the most recent theoretical ideas about the dense matter that may occupy the centers of compact stars. It is based on lectures presented at a small conference held in Copenhagen at the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics in the same small hall that so many famous people have gathered in ever since the days of Niels Bohr.

I wish I had been there to hear them. The novelty and sophistication of ideas for dense phases of matter is quite astonishing. And neutron stars and other compact objects may be the only laboratory available for their exploration, providing not only the high density, but also time enough and temperature enough (and not too much) for phenomena associated with these phases to develop to a potentially observable extent.

Of course, there's the rub. Many of the ideas are still in early stages of gestation and it will take some time to think what observable consequences will flow from them. Already a few have been developed and others are on the drawing boards. I am sure that this volume will speed the process.

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