
Opening Address

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One Conference less is better than one Conference more. So, the decision last September to combine two series of Conferences with very similar scope was not too difficult. The two roots of this combination are the International Symposia on Heavy Flavour Physics, with HF9 last year, and the Conferences on B Meson Physics and CP violation with BCP4 also last year.

The Heavy Flavour Series included CP Violation from the beginning, the first Symposium took place in 1986 at Heidelberg. The idea was born in a ski lift at the Rencontres de Moriond when Berthold Stech and me went uphill together. Before we skied down again, we agreed to organize a Symposium on c, b, and t quarks, τ leptons, and CP violation in the Kaon system. This was one of about 50 symposia in Sciences and Letters for celebrating the 600th Anniversary of Heidelberg University. We had about 100 participants, among them half the ARGUS group, Klaus Wille – who presented his first design for a B Meson Factory –, and Freddy Fridman and Elliot Bloom who wanted to organize a follow-up 1987 in California.

In this second Symposium, at Stanford University, ARGUS had to defend the $B^0\bar{B}^0$ mixing discovery against attacks from CLEO, that was fun. Because of its clear focus on flavour physics, production mechanisms as well as decays, we decided at Stanford to continue in a bi-annual sequence, and Karl Berkelman offered to organize number 3 in 1989 at Cornell. The next Symposia were in 1991 at Orsay, organized by Michel Davier, then the 5th in 1993 at McGill Montreal, run by David MacFarlane, the 6th in 1995 at Pisa, organized by Marcello Giorgi, the 7th in 1997 at Santa Barbara with Mike Witherell as host, the 8th in 1999 organized by Chris Sachrajda at Southampton, where BABAR showed its first result, a scan over the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance, and finally HF9 last September at Caltech organized by David Hitlin.

Speaking for all nine previous hosts, organizing committees and participants, I would like to wish good luck for the marriage of the two series and fruitful continuation of discussing, attacking, and defending results in our field of Flavour Physics.

Especially best wishes for our meeting here! I like very much that it takes place in the city of Benjamin Franklin who started here, after a successful career as printer, editor, and writer at the age of 37 with his experiments and models on electricity. Three years later he was a "full time electrician" and had found that there are two types of sparks, he called them male and female fires, later positive and negative fire, electric fire, electric matter. He also formulated charge conservation, but here I better stop. Charge is still conserved, Franklin was right. It's a great place for our Conference, we thank Nigel Lockyer for bringing us here and wish him and us best success.