

TRUE COMPLEXITY

For some, a meeting on Complexity is like a big sack where you can put whatever you like. Eventually that approach results in a disjoint collection of subjects, where the only common feature is that each author has conveniently sprinkled some of the "magic keywords" to his/her talk or poster, such as "emergent phenomena", "strange attractor" or "self-organization".

We did our best to circumvent that risk in "Complex Matter Physics: materials, dynamics and patterns" (MarchCOMeeting'12), celebrated in Havana from March 6 to 9, 2012.

Indeed, the papers presented at the meeting shared important aspects beyond the use of some "magic keywords". In addition to the aim to quantify and model phenomena using mathematical and computational tools, most subjects approached are strongly nonlinear, and contain many degrees of freedom, and the majority of the papers presented deal with applying the notions of unifying complexity to interconnected physical phenomena occurring in materials.

It is fair to say that MarchCOMeeting'12 was possible due to the extraordinary support of the Centre for Advanced

Study at the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters (CAS) under the project "Complex Matter Science", headed by T. H. Johansen, and also to the contribution of the "Abdus Salam" International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). The Physics Faculty and the IMRE (University of Havana), as well as the Cuban Physical Society, should be also thanked for their support.

But the key element for the celebration of the meeting was the enthusiastic will to go ahead with the project of most participants: 60 talks and 33 posters were presented by 78 scientists and students from 11 countries, where Cuba (25), Norway (17), France (15) and the U. S. (8) stood out.

The special number of the *Revista Cubana de Física* that we are presenting here includes 18 papers submitted by the participants, in addition to an interview given by L. P. Kadanoff, who was assigned the opening talk of the meeting.

MarchCOMeeting'12 showed to be an excellent scenario for scientific and human exchange -for one thing, the biggest meeting ever between Norwegian and Cuban physicists. We hope that similar rendezvous will take place in the future.

Ernesto Altshuler
Jon Otto Fossum
Editors