PREFACE

The present volume contains some lecture notes and a few short contributions given at the **Summer School in Modern Mathematical Physics**, which was held in Sokobanja (Serbia, Yugoslavia), 13-25 August 2001 (see http://www.phy.bg.ac.yu/mphys1/). The programme was mainly related to recent developments in string and quantum field theory. In addition to lectures on topics, some introductory lectures on mathematical methods in physics and some workshop talks have also been delivered. We are very grateful to all speakers for their interesting and useful talks. We also thank authors for writing their contributions for this Proceedings.

This was the first international meeting in mathematical physics in Yugoslavia. At the same time, it was the first German-Serbian school in mathematical physics. This meeting was a part of Julius Wess' WIGV initiative (http://www.wigv.de), which is designed to support scientists from the republics of former Yugoslavia as well as to advance their scientific contacts with Germany. Accordingly the organizers tried to support widest possible participation, and to create opportunity to improve scientific relations between scientists in the region and to enhance their contacts with colleagues from Europe and the rest of the world. The present meeting was a good example of a constructive interplay among physicists and mathematicians, stimulating exchanges of experiences, cooperation and friendship. The initial idea to organize a scientific school in Serbia that would bring together physicists and mathematicians, and that would be supported by the German scientific fund, appeared in October 2000 during informal discussions at the Max-Planck Institute for Physics in Muenchen as a part of talks concerning the implementation of the WIGV initiative. It goes without saying that it took a lot of effort on behalf of all the organizers, especially Julius

Wess and Lutz Moeller, to provide adequate sponsorship and to solve many organizational tasks in a rather short period of time.

The organizers would like to express their gratitude to the *German Bundesministerium fuer Bildung und Forshung* for serving as the prime financier of the meeting. We also wish to thank our other sponsors: *Serbian Ministry of Science, Technologies and Development*; *Federal Secretariat for Development and Science of Yugoslavia*; as well as the *Srbijašume* company from Niš.

Participants benefited not only from the lectures and discussions but also from the excursion to Gamzigrad-Romuliana archeological site, the picnic in Lepterija, climbing to Sokograd, the visit to Niš,... Many of the guests relaxed and got to know each other during bowling sections and visits to the pool.

All the facilities at the hotel Zdravljak were centrally located and served as a kind of temporary campus. This, as well as the attention of all of the hotel staff, made the stay in Sokobanja spa a pleasant one for all. We believe that all attending this summer school will recall it as a pleasant and useful event.

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