

Preface

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The 2021 Rencontres de Physique de la Vallée d’Aoste were held during the week of March 8–12, with the XXXIV edition of “Results and Perspectives in Particle Physics”. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, we had a last minute cancellation of the 2020 edition. As the pandemic due to SARS-CoV2 was still ongoing, the 2021 edition was held in virtual mode only. The format of the Workshop was adapted to the media in order to facilitate remote participation. As usual the physics programme included various topics in particle physics, also in connection with present and future experimental facilities, as cosmology and astrophysics, dark matter and neutrino physics, heavy flavours, CP violation and rare decays, electroweak and hadron physics with e^+e^- and hadron colliders, Higgs physics, searches for new physics and prospects at future facilities. In addition in the session “Physics and Society” Pietro Faccioli nicely presented the talk “From quarks to Drugs: A Cross-Disciplinary Application of Theoretical Physics to Drug Discovery”.

Giorgio Bellettini, Giorgio Chiarelli, Gino Isidori and I would like to warmly thank the speakers for their contribution to the success of the meeting. We would like to thank all the Regional Authorities of Aosta Valley and Bruno Baschiera, local coordinator of the Rencontres. We are grateful to the President of INFN Antonio Zoccoli and the Director of INFN Sezione di Pisa, Marco Grassi, for the support in the organization of the Rencontres. We would like to thank Lucia Lilli and Claudia Tofani for their help in both planning and running the meeting. The excellent assistance provided by Enrico Mazzoni and Mauro Giannini made it possible to set up the virtual mode of the conference.