

# PREFACE

*Dear Reader of the MCFA Annals Volume II,*

Once again, the Marie Curie Fellowship Association has produced a collection of scientific publications resulting from the research done by Marie Curie Fellows. As expected, the *Annals* document the high standards of research performed by Marie Curie Grant holders. This is not surprising since the authors were able to successfully compete for a Marie Curie Fellowship with regard to the host institute, the project and their own qualification. Moreover, the editors selected from all the submitted articles only the ones, which satisfied internal quality criteria.

More surprising is that once again the editorial committee proved being committed and professional enough to making the new *Annals* volume a success. A publication policy had to be set up, a peer review system had to be organized, a selection procedure had to be established. The procedure required a high degree of collaboration and creative thinking of scientists who never met and who do not even share a scientific field or publication policies. Let us not forget that the *Annals* were this year, in contrary to the first *Annals* volume, purely organized by volunteers who did this work during their free time. The fact that such an ambitious project could be concluded even under odd conditions documents the fascination and determination of all involved colleagues and not at least the possibilities of the Marie Curie Fellowship Association.

In this sense we want to sincerely thank not only the authors for their contributions, but also the editorial team, in particular the former editors-in-chief Luc Deneire and Olivier Sparagano for a magnificent work with the realisation of this volume. We wish that the *Annals* continue being an integral part of the associations activities. Last but not least we wish the reader an enjoyable journey through some of the best pieces of research performed by Marie Curie Fellows.

Milano and Stockholm, 23 July 2002,

*Winfried Meining*

Winfried Meining ([wmeining@mariecurie.org](mailto:wmeining@mariecurie.org)) is chairman of the MCFA

*Nora Brambilla*

Nora Brambilla ([nbrambilla@mariecurie.org](mailto:nbrambilla@mariecurie.org)) is MCFA board member and editor-in-chief of the *Annals* II edition