

## **A friendly exchange between Professor Remo Ruffini and Professor Yousef Sobouti during the editorial preparation of the Proceedings publication**

*Prof. RUFFINI: We are very interested in collaborating with many countries but now especially with Iran, we are writing the text of an agreement with the Director of the Iran National Observatory (INO) since we would like to move that observatory, which has already a 3.4-m telescope, to have the most updated instrumentations for observing transient astrophysical phenomena and especially GRBs. We will proceed in developing, thanks to Yousef, the relation with many students. We have already signed agreements with seven universities in Iran including the ones with the IASBS of Yousef in Zanjan and the one with an IRANet Center in the beautiful town of Isfahan. Well, good, everybody now goes back to work. Yousef, it is always a great pleasure to see you and I hope to come soon and meet the Director of INO after he visits us in Pescara.*

*Prof. SOBOUTI: If you allow me, I will tell you some recollections from your visits to Iran. The first time you came to Shiraz, I believe it was around 1975 or so, some 50 years back. At the time, we had not committed Islamic revolution and so we could serve our guests with dreams, and the Chancellor of the University of Shiraz invited both of us to his house, do you remember? We had a meeting and then we were triggered with scotch and small slices of pizza. It was your first visit. Before that, I already had met you in different colloquia, meetings in Europe and, if I remember correctly, once in the University of Chicago or somewhere in a US University.*

*Prof. RUFFINI: We met also in Les Houches.*

*Prof. SOBOUTI: Oh yes, in Les Houches, it's right. Then you came again to Zanjan's Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences some 10/12 years back, if I remember correctly. At that time, I had built up this Institute and of course we did have programs and courses in Astrophysics, Cosmology and so on. The chief of the INO, Dr. Khosroshahi, is one of my former students at IASBS and many other astronomers of Iran are my former Shiraz students. I should let you and the audience know that in just about 2-3 weeks' time I will turn 90. And I am saying this to you: "You should not expect much from a 90-year-old man". However, I do keep my activities and my lectures in IASBS, and my research interests in the past 10-15 years have somewhat drifted away from astronomy and astrophysics. The latest work I submitted for publication is on the singularities in physics and how to cope with them. These are my recent interests. During the past 10 or 15 years, I'm busy with such problems. However, I am at your service to do whatever I can in my capacity as a 90-year-old man.*

*Prof. RUFFINI: You are an example I'm following. I'm not yet 90, but I have been 80 and I have still a lot of enthusiasm, like the first time we met in the beautiful town of Shiraz. We have in our heart the love for Iran and especially the love for science and we want to help so many, not only the young ones but all people, to work together, to look out from one of the highest mountains in Iran to the largest extension of our Universe up to 10–15 billions of light years in our past. Why? Because there, there are the strongest energy sources originating their energy on rotating Black Holes. Roy Kerr has been the one who gave us the key mathematical tool to put the electrodynamics in Relativistic Astrophysics. It has been a long time, 50 years, but we finally succeeded. Now, our efforts are devoted to transmit all this knowledge to as many people as possible on the planet earth, independently of local temporal difficulties, but in the common interest for deep knowledge of the science of the Universe. This is our common message, dear Yousef, and I am very happy to share this message with everyone.*

*Prof. SOBOUTI: Very good. Let me add that I have worked for Shiraz for 33 years and in Zanzan for another 30 years and still keep on.*