

## Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> ISSRNS

On behalf of the Programme Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> International School and Symposium on Synchrotron Radiation in Natural Science (ISSRNS-2014) we are pleased to welcome you to this School and Symposium.

The ISSRNS is a series of biennial conference meetings organized in Poland since 1992, traditionally devoted to recent advances and new techniques employing synchrotron radiation (SR) in physics, chemistry, materials science, crystallography, biology and medicine as well as in the fields of archeometry, environmental protection, geology, quality control, etc. The aim of this interdisciplinary meeting is also to bring together scientists working with synchrotron radiation and those who would like to learn more about the sources and specific experimental techniques. The ISSRNS has a format of advanced workshop covering recent developments of synchrotrons and short-wavelength free electron lasers and providing a forum for reporting the most recent achievements in fundamental and applied research. ISSRNS meetings owe their success mainly to the lecturers from various synchrotron and scientific centers in the world.

The 12<sup>th</sup> ISSRNS is organized by Polish Synchrotron Radiation Society (PTPS) in cooperation with two Polish institutions, the Institute of Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw and the National Centre for Nuclear Physics in Otwock-Świerk and under Honorary Patronage by Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship Adam Struzik.

As the year 2014 has been proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Year of Crystallography, the programme of the 12<sup>th</sup> ISSRNS provides, on this occasion, a special session on recent milestone advances in the discipline, whose progress is strictly related to the development of modern SR sources - synchrotrons and short-wavelength FELs. In Poland, construction of the first national synchrotron SOLARIS in Krakow will soon be completed. A concept of the Polish free electron laser proposed to be constructed at National Center for Nuclear Research in Otwock/Świerk also reaches its maturity. These facts pronouncedly influence the program of the current meeting beyond its traditional topics to promote integration of the SR community of users, designers and constructors of the advanced synchrotron sources.

The Capital City of Poland, Warsaw (Polish: Warszawa [var'ʂava]) is located on the Vistula River, in the central stretch of its reaches, in the flat region only about 100 m above sea level, in the central-eastern part of Poland. The historic center of Warsaw, together with the Royal Castle, is situated on the picturesque high escarpment on the left bank of the Vistula River. The old town, with a vast majority of historical houses, palaces and churches with their interiors, had to be painstakingly rebuilt after the extensive damage it suffered in World War II, during which 85% of its buildings were destroyed. Currently, besides its leading role as a political and business center of Poland, Warsaw is now a city of culture and science, with numerous theatres, cinemas, museums, galleries, music centers and cabarets. It is also the major center of education in Poland. More than twenty university or academy-level institutions educate 300,000 students. . . .

The conference venue is in a comfortable hotel BOSS, situated on the right bank of the Vistula river, near the administrative city limit of Warsaw, 20-25 km off the city center, on the edge of the Mazovian Landscape Park, a large (c.a. 160 sq. km), natural remnant of much greater ancient forest. This picturesque region, with forest grown on sandy Mazovian soil has for years attracted visitors from the Warsaw agglomeration who relax and get in some fresh air.

We hope you will find 12<sup>th</sup> ISSRNS as a very successful and remarkable event that could combine scientific purpose with possible rest.

Jerzy B. Pełka  
(Chairman)

Ryszard Sobierajski  
(Scientific Secretary)