

Dedication

This issue of the *Journal of Plasma Physics* is dedicated to Radu Balescu on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

Of the more than 170 articles published worldwide by Professor Balescu to date, more than 25 have been published in this journal. Readers of the *Journal of Plasma Physics* will thus be well acquainted with his contributions to the study of the interplay between plasma turbulence and the theory of transport phenomena in magnetically confined plasmas. A vast community of students, teachers and researchers will also have read or consulted the many monographs, five to date, written by Balescu and world-famous for their clarity. In his first monograph, *Statistical Mechanics of Charged Particles* (Interscience, New York), published in 1963, the whole of plasma physics, including the transport equation to which his name will remain attached, was put into the broader context of statistical physics. The monograph *Equilibrium and Non-Equilibrium Statistical Mechanics* (Wiley-Interscience, New York) followed in 1975, and still inspires many teachers today.

The whole of transport theory was taken up again in his two-volume work *Transport Processes in Plasmas*. Vol. 1: *Classical Transport*. Vol. 2: *Neoclassical Transport* (North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1988). Very recently, this review of transport theory was enlarged further by including now also the ‘strange transport processes’ in *Statistical Dynamics: Matter Out of Equilibrium* (Imperial College Press, London, 1997).

Radu Balescu’s scientific contributions to statistical mechanics in general, and plasma physics in particular, have received widespread recognition. In 1970 he was awarded the ‘Prix Francqui’, the highest scientific distinction in Belgium. In the same year he became a Member of the Royal Belgian Academy of Science. His native country elected him as an Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy in 1990.

Throughout his career, Balescu has elaborated a teaching programme at the Université Libre de Bruxelles that has always been very much appreciated by students and that will be missed now by all of us. His lectures were characterized by a calm and peaceful atmosphere, by a search for dialogue with his students, and above all by an effort at extreme clarity.

Since 1969, Balescu has spent a lot of energy in promoting the inertial confinement fusion programme of Euratom, and we know that he will continue to do so in the future. The plasma physics community will certainly remain grateful to him for his many efforts to maintain the interest of Euratom in basic plasma theory at a reasonable level.

This Special Issue came about as the result of a proposal to the *Journal of Plasma Physics* initiated by his former students, Alkis Grecos, Jean Wallenborn and myself. It contains contributions from those of his former students who

have remained in plasma physics as well as from his close collaborators and friends. On this occasion, I, although not a plasma physicist, have served as Guest Editor. All papers have been subjected to the usual standards for publication and reviewed according to the rules of this journal.

On behalf of this journal and of all those who have contributed to this Special Issue, we wish Radu a stimulating life 'after 65'.

MARC BAUS
Université Libre de Bruxelles
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