# PREFACE

The Eighth International Conference on Geometry, Integrability and Quantization took place, as in previous years, at the Sts. Constantin and Elena resort on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria from the 9th to the 14th of June 2006.

The lectures covered a wide range of topics, stretching from classical differential geometry and integrable systems methods in geometry and physics to theoretical physics. We name just a few of the topics presented, hereby demonstrating the breadth of the conference: Invariants in line geometry and special surfaces in a variety of ambient geometries, Geometric chaos, Gromov–Witten invariants, Hamiltonian hierarchies and reductions, the Chaplygin gas and brane, the Vlasov–Maxwell system, and Quantization of coupled maps on the torus. A more complete list of covered topics is provided by the list of contents.

The conference was an unique opportunity for participants from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas to interact, present and discuss topics in their respective research areas and to learn about new developments in related fields. Given the highly non-trivial task of making talks on such a variety of recent research topics accessible to an audience with such diverse backgrounds, the speakers made a great effort to present ideas and methods in a lively and accessible way.

We hope that the organized tour to nearby historical and natural sites did not only provide an interesting activity away from the dense scientific programme but also presented an opportunity for participants to meet at a more personal level and to exchange research ideas in a more informal setting.

In summary, we feel that the conference was a great success, bringing together an international group of researchers working in areas covering differential geometry, integrable systems and quantization.

Thanks go, first and foremost, to all the participants in the conference for delivering very interesting scientific talks. Many thanks go as well to the Bulgarian participants for their support and hospitality, which allowed foreign participants to feel more at home. The editors would like to thank all the participants for their contributions and for making the conference an interesting and memorable event. Special thanks go to Mrs. Mariana Hadzhilazova, Dr. Vassil Vassilev and Dr. Ivaylo Zlatanov for their assistance in the organization of the conference. We also express our sincere thanks to Mrs. Mariana Hadzhilazova for her help with proofreading of the contributed papers and to Mr. Venelin Chernogorov for his help in preparing this proceedings volume.

It is our pleasant duty to acknowledge the financial support from the European Mathematical Society, in the form of travel grants to young participants from Eastern Europe, and from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the latter being