Preface

The volume documents the proceedings of the
             TRENDS IN MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS
conference, held at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 14-17 October 1998.

The conference brought together researchers with various backgrounds in mathematics and/or in physics and related sciences, for a series of expository lectures on selected areas in mathematical physics, as well as presentations of current research in a wide variety of areas. The expressed aim was to explore the common features shared by various fields of physical science and the underlying mathematics, and to create links between researchers across discipline boundaries.

We had seventy seven registered participants from all over the world and all over the US. Fourteen came from eleven different countries (Argentina, England, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Russia, Switzerland, Taiwan), the rest from eighteen different states (AL, CA, FL, IA, IL, KY, LA, MA, MI, MS, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TN, TX, WI).

The conference was jointly hosted by the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Physics and Astronomy, with support from the UTK College of Arts and Sciences through a Haines/Morris Grant, the Science Alliance (a State of Tennessee Center of Excellence), the UTK Office of Reseach Administration, and the two organizing Departments.

The principal organizers were Vasilios Alexiades, Geoff Canright, Alex Freire, and George Siopsis, with invaluable assistance from Wanda Giles and the Mathematics Department staff, along with help from other members of the interdisciplinary *Mathematical and Computational Physics Program* at UTK, Nick Alikakos, Ted Barnes, Chuck Collins and Mike Guidry.

We wish to thank the participants for making the conference a success.

The Editors,

Vasilios Alexiades
George Siopsis

Knoxville, Tennessee
12 March 1999