54th Meeting of the Italian Astronomical Society
Italian astronomy: perspectives for the next decade

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FOREWORD

The main topics of the Italian astronomical research, covering all the scientific areas, namely: Solar and Solar System Physics, Stellar evolution, Extragalactic Astronomy and Cosmology, High-energy Astrophysics and Ground-based and Space Technology have been extensively discussed during the meeting. In particular the most recent results and the future developments have been presented, also in the context of on-going approved national and international programs. During the meeting, two round-table discussions were organized. The first one was dedicated to the perspectives of Astronomy and Astrophysics in Italy at the threshold of the second decade of the millennium; the topic of the other round table was the teaching of Astronomy in secondary schools, and its links with Universities In this volume several invited reviews will present the state-of-the-art research and the perspective for the next future years, whereas shorter contributions will concentrate on specific results and projects, including public outreach activities.

The Organizing Committee:
V. Andretta, E. Cascone, L. Colangeli, E. Iodice (Chair), M. Marconi, E. Mazzotta Epifani