

## *Director's Corner*



*Chattopadhyay Musings .....*

*on the eve of Transition 2007: A Brave New World*

*from the Inaugural Director of the Cockcroft Institute*

**Swapan Chattopadhyay**

April 16, 2007

It has been since February 15, 2007 – the historic and memorable day of the Inaugural Symposium of the Cockcroft Institute - that I have not addressed you. I write to you today as I prepare to assume responsibilities for the institute starting April 23, 2007 - a significant transition for me personally, as well as for you all collectively.

The circumstance of my 'Passage to England' after three and a half decades' of living and working amidst my north American colleagues invites comment. It pleases me that I am able to say that I feel no negative emotion, but rather one of enormous gratitude and fellowship towards my enriched past in India, then US. Now I feel this tremendous draw, excitement and joy of a new adventure, altogether different from my past and yet one that elevates me to a feeling of service to higher human values – values that combine excellence and dedication to education, research, leadership, management, service to the community, nurturing the next generation and serving society via appropriate knowledge exchange, all set up in an unique first-of-its-kind 'experiment' of university/laboratory/industry partnership, but led by the lofty ideals of top research-led universities. I have always made myself available whenever the international community has wanted me to serve them in critical areas of need. While the association of Cockcroft's name with an Institute and its leadership, devoted to the new challenges of particle accelerators in a new century, is only appropriate, I must admit to being humbled by this very special appointment. At the same time, I am very excited by its unbounded potential in advancing science for the benefit of humanity.

In making this decision, I am of course leaving behind all that is "known" and "comfortable" for me here in the US, especially my outstanding dedicated colleagues who have defined me for the past years. I am crossing the Atlantic in the excitement of the challenge and the unique opportunity but I will cherish and strive to maintain my long-standing collaboration with colleagues in the US, which will stand in good stead for the Cockcroft Institute as well.

I feel privileged and am looking forward to working with some of the brightest minds in the fields of Accelerators, Physics and Engineering. The Institute is now clearly visible on the international scene, with its staff being recognized globally for their intellectual prowess and leadership, adding to the Institute's pre-eminence and to my personal pleasure at the anticipation of its stewardship. We are poised for great achievements along the lines of our predecessors

from the area at the turn of the last century.....Thomson, Rutherford, Barkla, Cockcroft, Chadwick, Geiger, and others, blazing new trails in the most fundamental and deepest understanding of the dynamic play between particles and light at the highest levels of resolution and rapidity and as global pioneers in the emerging technologies of Energy Recovering Linear accelerators, bright storage rings, 'luminous' particle colliders, precision microwaves, photonics, lasers and plasmas ...all driving the next generation particle accelerators in the horizon such as the International Linear Collider (ILC), Neutrino/Muon facilities, bright Light/Neutron sources and accelerators of altogether novel designs serving diverse areas of research and development in "discovery-class" science as well as serving human needs in health, energy, security and special materials.

'Change' is an opportunity for growth, both institutional and personal. I look towards our maintaining uncompromising adherence to the following 'guiding values' as we transition : intellectual excellence; innovation and creativity; communication and interaction; individual expression as well as a team spirit; obligation on promised deliverables; service to the community via 'contracts' and valued returns (e.g. national and international deliverables on large projects); fostering synergistic collaboration between the institute, universities, laboratories (Daresbury and Rutherford) and industry; respecting diversity and promoting/enhancing the quality of work environment via retention and recruitment; education and outreach. Overall, the Institute must strive to be a positive force of growth for the human enterprise locally, nationally and globally.

Along with these values, I would personally like to uphold certain guiding principles of transition: *festina lente*; no interruption in research programs or projects; fiscal integrity; no lapse in safety at the workplace; no 'orphaned' projects (every project must be owned and accounted for institutionally); no 'orphaned individuals' (every staff member has a mentor/supervisor who is responsible for her/his personal and professional growth in the framework of institutional integrity); fostering communication via integrated location whenever possible; sharing transition burdens across the institution; and valuing and seeking everyone's opinion as much as feasible.

I would like to invite and welcome you all on Friday, April 27th at 14:00 hr to an "All-hands" meeting for the entire CI staff including the universities and ASTeC as well as selected staff from the Daresbury Lab and DSIC. Our administrative staff will send out the announcement soon.

It was John Dainton, who during a passionate and long trans-continental telephone conversation with me in the US as he was deliberating on one of his major CERN commitments in Geneva almost a year ago, convinced me of the outstanding scientific drive, lofty ideals and vision behind the Cockcroft Institute that he had established, which made me consider seriously packing my bags after 35 colourful years in the US, less two at CERN. That passion has been repeatedly re-affirmed and further enhanced during my subsequent multiple trips to the Institute, when I met the bright and dedicated staff and recent recruits from the universities and from ASTeC, and saw for myself the high goals the institute has set for itself. I consider it my distinct pleasure and privilege to be serving the Institute, its cause and its outstanding staff.

I want to take this opportunity to thank John Dainton for guiding me personally and for steering us collectively through this nontrivial transition. The Institute and surely the entire Daresbury community are fortunate to have somebody of John's calibre, vision and international standing working amongst us. Not only in the coming months, but for the Institute's long-term future, we will surely need John's eminent scientific stature, his wise counsel, his excellence in judgment, his international connections and long experience in assisting and guiding us. John of course will continue to act in the capacity of the Founding Director of the Cockcroft Institute, as he delves deeper into his favorite scientific endeavors. I have however requested John to consider assuming the role of the Chief Scientist and Counselor-at-large of the Institute and I am happy to report that he has obliged me by accepting the position. Starting April 23, 2007 John Dainton, the **Founding Director**, will also be the **Chief Scientist and Counsellor-at-large** of the **Cockcroft Institute**.

I also want to record my thanks to Mike Poole who continues to guide ASTeC in the CI with the enthusiasm and determination of a committed scientist. Mike, with Vic Suller, has taken ASTeC from its birth to a unique centre, and for years has worked tirelessly for Accelerator Physics and Engineering bringing on many new young people to become major players in the field. The combination of Mike's energy always to work at the cutting edge of his discipline, together with the vision and determination of Wendy Flavell, Elaine Seddon, and Peter Weightman to work for the revolutionary science possible with a 4GLS, also played a major part in my decision to move to the Cockcroft Institute. I look forward to contributing in any way I can to the realisation of 4GLS and to its exploitation as a "light source" of unparalleled opportunity.

In the coming days and weeks, our administrative staff will be setting up for me meetings with individuals, groups and departments. Spontaneous 'drop-ins' are welcome as I will have an open door policy. But remember, there may be fixed unavoidable meetings already scheduled on my calendar. Hence very early mornings or very late afternoons, will always be safer and biased towards your success! Feel free to check with Liz Kennedy or Leanne Fletcher to get an idea of my calendar.

Thanks for making a difference in my life!! And now, onwards and upwards for all of us!! I wish us all a very smooth transition and "lift-off" as we adjust to the changes in the leadership of the institute, UK Research Councils, and the universities!

Cheers!!!



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