

### Editorial

Star clusters in the galaxies have played and continue to play a foremost role as laboratories for the study of star formation, stellar evolution and stellar dynamics. There is a growing interest all over the world for studies of star clusters. This interest is likely to increase in the near future with the opportunities offered by new generation of optical and near-IR facilities. It is felt that a coordinated effort in the area of astrometry, photometry and IR astronomy will be fruitful and mutually beneficial. By combining different expertise and the use of wide range of facilities it will be possible to tackle the front line problems in a more efficient way.

The fifty year old observatory, recently reincarnated as Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) has already made a significant contribution in the field of Star Cluster research. To mark the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Institute, it was considered appropriate that a one day international meeting on Star Clusters to be organised at ARIES to bring together a number of specialists in the field of star clusters to review recent developments, discuss about further activities and promote collaborative efforts in star cluster research.

The International Meeting on Star Clusters was held at the Uttaranchal Academy of Administration, Nainital on February 21, 2005. These proceedings published in the Bulletin ASI comprise a collection of the invited talks. Our thanks are due to all the referees.

We thank the members of the organizing committee for their valuable help. This meeting was made possible by the generous financial support from the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi. We are thankful to the staff members of ARIES, Uttaranchal Academy of Administration, Nainital and local authorities of Nainital district for their support. We are thankful to the participants, specially from abroad, who accept our invitation even on a very short notice. It is a pleasure to thank speakers for their lively presentation which triggered many discussions during and after the talks.

**A. K. Pandey**  
**B. Kumar**

Guest Editors