

## Special Issue

# Symmetry/Asymmetry in Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD)

### Message from the Guest Editors

QCD, the theory of the strong force, features a complex interplay of symmetries and asymmetries. It adheres to Poincaré and SU(3) gauge symmetries. Idealized scenarios, like massless quarks, suggest global flavor and chiral symmetries, but these are approximate due to quark masses. Baryon number symmetry is key. QCD also exhibits asymmetries. The conformal anomaly breaks scale invariance, leading to asymptotic freedom. The chiral anomaly impacts chiral symmetry, linked to the  $\eta$  meson and the strong CP problem. Quark masses break flavor and chiral symmetries. Spontaneous symmetry breaking explains hadron mass generation, with pions as approximate Goldstone bosons. These symmetries and asymmetries define QCD's structure and hadron properties.

### Guest Editors

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### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Symmetry is ultimately the most important concept in natural sciences. It is not surprising then that very basic and fundamental research achievements are related to symmetry. For instance, the Nobel Prize in Physics 1979 (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg) was received for a unified symmetry description of electromagnetic and weak interactions, while the Nobel Prize in Physics 2008 (Nambu, Kobayashi, Maskawa) was received for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous breaking of symmetry, including CP symmetry. Our journal is named *Symmetry* and it manifests its fundamental role in nature.

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### Editor-in-Chief

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