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Dedication to Gerardus F. Helminck

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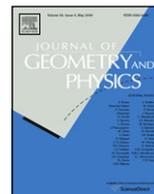
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Editorial

Dedication to Gerardus F. Helminck

It is a pleasure for us to dedicate this Topical Issue to Gerardus Franciscus Helminck, our colleague and dear friend (and even, for one of us, a brother), on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Gerard's main quality is his ability to unite. As a coordinator of joint grants supported by the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), he did much to unite the efforts of Dutch and Russian mathematicians and mathematical physicists in their research into integrability. Being, for many years, the heart and engine of numerous international conferences and workshops, he united scientists of different origin and various disciplines. As a matter of fact, this Issue is also an outcome of Gerard's activities in this field.

His remarkable scientific work is the result of a joint application of geometry, algebra and analytical tools to the study of integrable hierarchies. And, of course, everyone knows Gerard's (alas, not always successful!) efforts to merge space and time in his continuous attempts to be at different places simultaneously.

Dear Gerard, we wish you to remain over the next 60 years, as active, fruitful, and buoyant as you are now. Happy Birthday!

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