BANACH ALGEBRAS 2009
BANACH CENTER PUBLICATIONS, VOLUME 91
INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
WARSZAWA 2010

PREFACE

In 1974, William G. Bade of Berkeley and Philip C. Curtis, Jr., of Los Angeles organized a meeting at UCLA entitled *Homomorphisms and Derivations from Banach Algebras*. That meeting was attended by 21 people, none of whom had probably any idea that they were the first participants of the first meeting in what would later become known as the *Banach Algebras* conference series.

A quarter of a century later—from July 14 to 24, 2009, to be precise—the nineteenth meeting in that series was held at the *Stefan Banach International Mathematical Center* in Będlewo, Poland.

The meeting was impressive testimony of how the area of Banach algebras had evolved and diversified over the intervening two and a half decades. The plenary talks at the meeting included (among others) topics as diverse as:

- Fréchet algebras of power series;
- locally compact quantum groups;
- operator algebras on Banach spaces other than Hilbert space;
- rigidity of group actions;
- semigroups of operators.

Four of the previous Banach algebras conferences—Long Beach (1981), Canberra (1989), Blaubeuren (1997), and Edmonton (2003)—generated conference proceedings. Since six years had passed since the Edmonton conference and in view of the progress that had been achieved mathematically since 2003, it was decided to produce a volume of conference proceedings for the 2009 meeting.

The present volume is the result of that decision. It collects 26, strictly and independently refereed, research-expository articles based on presentations delivered at the conference. It is a vivid testimony to the fact that the area of Banach algebras is very much alive and kicking.

With deep gratitude we acknowledge the support for the meeting from the Polish Academy of Sciences, the European Science Foundation under the ESF-EMS-ERCOM partnership, and the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the Adam Mickiewicz University at Poznań.

Richard J. Loy
Volker Runde
Andrzej Sołtysiak