Editorial: Creativity and Science.

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As we have mentioned in the two foregoing editorials, Foundations of Science concentrates on the foundations of different scientific disciplines and tries to make available to scientists working in other disciplines important results obtained in one specific discipline. This is one of the reasons why the authors should make an effort to write their papers in a clear and understandable way, eventually dividing them into two parts, one part directed primarily to the non-specialist reader (a long and extended introduction) and a second part which may be technical and deep and directed towards the specialist. More specific information about this aspect is contained in the extensive ‘instructions for authors’ that appeared in issue 3.2. Of course, Foundations of Science is also highly interested in papers that are interdisciplinary in themselves. For these papers the same guidelines apply.

The three articles published in issue 4.2 consist of material presented at the Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy in Boston in August 1998. These papers have been edited by Fritz Rohrlich for Foundations of Science and more details about them can be found in Rohrlich’s short introduction in this issue.

As we have put forward in the editorial in issue 4.1., Foundations of Science wants to pay attention to other forms of publication than scientific articles, such as essays and interviews. The reason is that we believe that the process of creation and discovery itself, as the scientist that writes about the material has lived it, is often revealed better in these more informal forms of publication. Papers that explore these informal forms of publication are welcome and will be collected in a special section in some of the issues. In the previous issue, 4.1. this informal section was introduced for the first time and contained an interview with Bruce Sawhill and a manifesto of Toraldo Di Francia. We continue this effort
with an interview with Stuart Hammeroff who visited the Center Leo Apostel this summer. He is one of the leading forces behind the newly (beginning of the nineties) emerging investigations on consciousness and worked out an intriguing model together with Roger Penrose.

The informal aspects may establish a way to confront the reader more directly with the creative process itself. This creative process however is studied in its own right by scientists. The ‘science of scientific discovery and creativity’ is also a newly emerging field of research and therefore Foundations of Science is proud to publish in issue 4.3 and issue 4.4 papers that contain research dedicated to this field. These two issues contain material that was presented during a conference on this subject in Gent in the spring of 1998 and has been edited by Joke Meheus and Thomas Nickles. We refer to their introduction for more details about the field and the specific papers.