Dear David and Jonathan,

I really regret for my absence to this event, I cannot today congratulate directly and celebrate the Panofsky prize that you have deserved and received.

I would like anyway to be part with this short note of the community attending the Symposium in your honor. The prize you received is the recognition of what you both have done to initiate and make possible the wonderful adventure BABAR. You both have done whatever needed for the approval of the Bfactory project and the formation of the BABAR collaboration. I well remember the preliminary contacts that we had before the start of the collaboration. At that time, in fact, in Pisa we were looking to a place and to an experiment where we could spend better the experience we had capitalized since 1980 in flavor physics at CERN, in secondary vertex detection and in the silicon technology that we had pioneered in our labs. We were aiming to an experiment on CP violation in b-decay. We were looking around; also considering possible options at Cornell and at KEK, but you two and David Leith have been able to convince me that joining BABAR at SLAC was the best possible choice for the Italian community.

Since then Jonathan on PEPII and David on BABAR worked hard to make possible in a remarkable short time the success of machine and experiment. Of course, a lot remained for the completion of the full experimental program before the termination of the PEPII operation in 2008.

BABAR has been for me the paradigmatic example of the best possible scientific collaboration, honest, friendly and truly international, to which you two together with most of us have given important contribution.

Personally, I cannot forget my fruitful, frank and friendly relations with you, during and after BABAR period.

My best congratulation to you David and Jonatan,

Marcello