The IAU338 Symposium, coordinated by the Division B, Facilities, Technologies and Data Science, Division D High Energy Phenomena and Fundamental Physics took place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, United States on October 16-19th 2017.

The meeting brought together 81 scientists from 12 countries.

This was one of the first meetings between astronomers and physicists after the announcement of the discovery of gravitational waves by LIGO. The meeting coincided with the announcement by LIGO and collaborating electromagnetic counterpart astronomers of the discovery of a collision of two neutron stars, GW170817, which was watched live by the participants. Several of the presenters in Washington DC announcement then flew to Baton Rouge to participate in the meeting.

The meeting included a lunch discussion on diversity in science and a visit by the participants to the LIGO Livingston Observatory.

During the banquet the passing of Dr. Neils Gehrels, one of the members of the Scientific Organizing Committee of this meeting.