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|  | **Ole Rømer Colloquia**  In order to strengthen and make the academic lectures more visible here at IFA, the Department changes the name General Physics Colloquium to Ole Rømer Colloquium. We also aim at attracting an increasing number of well-known and interesting researchers - both internal and external - to give interesting talks. IFA’s management encourages all academic staff members to participate in Ole Rømer Colloquiua.  One of IFA’s own professors, Thomas Pohl, will be the first to give an Ole Rømer Colloguium, and this will be on 6 September at 15:15-16:00 in the Physics Auditorium. Proposals for future speakers should be submitted to Steen Brøndsted Nielsen (sbn@phys.au.dk).  **Who was Ole Rømer?** Ole Rømer (b. 1644) was a Danish astronomer, engineer and commissioner of police, and the first person to measure a fundamental physical constant, the speed of light, in 1676. "Hesitation of Light” was a sensation, which was not immediately accepted in the scientific community.  Ole Rømer was born in Aarhus, and he graduated from Aarhus Katedralskole in 1662. After his graduation, he studied at the University of Copenhagen. His mentor was scientist and professor in medicine Rasmus Bartholin who discovered the double refraction of a light ray in 1669. Rømer became involved in preparing a publication of Tycho Brahe's observation journals, and he assisted in locating Brahe’s observatory on the island of Hven. His work helped to interpret Brahe’s observations more accurately.  Although Ole Rømer accomplished quite a lot during his lifetime - he was appointed professor of astronomy, among others; in 1700, he introduced the Gregorian calendar in Denmark, and he became director of the Round Tower Observatory - then his determination of 'the hesitation of light" was the achievement, he is remembered by. He died in 1710 in Copenhagen.  Finally, it should be noted that the Ole Rømer Observatory is an astronomical observatory under Aarhus University. |