

## **Commission B2 Activity: Data and Documentation**

Over the reporting period, IAU Commission B2 has undertaken several organizational activities in support of its core mission. In collaboration with Commissions C1 and C2, we have established the inter-commission working group on Data Driven Astronomy Education and Public Outreach (DAEPO). This working group is chaired by Commission B2 organizing committee member Dr. Chenzhou Cui. Similarly, we have contributed to the creation of two new working groups under the auspices of inter-division Commission J1 on a standardized sample of galaxy SEDs data and models (WG1) and interfaces to SED databases (WG2). Commission B2 organizing committee member Dr. Anja Schroeder is currently co-chair of Commission J1 WG2. Finally, members of Commission B2 have been instrumental in the successful proposal for IAU Symposia for 2017 on Time-Domain Astronomy to be held in Stellenbosch (South Africa) on November 13-17. Like its predecessor, IAU S285, this meeting will focus on the relationships between types of variability and the knowledge which can be derived from and through them. Commission B2 organizing committee members Dr. R. Elizabeth M. Griffin and Dr. Rob Seaman have been some of the prime organizers for this symposium through their participation in the new working group on Time-Domain Astronomy, now a Division WG.

In addition to these organizational activities, several of the Commission B2 working groups have continued to pursue their ongoing activities. Commission B2 WG1 on Designations, chaired by Dr. Marion Schmitz, has continued to clarify existing astronomical nomenclature to help astronomers avoid potential problems when designating their sources. The most important function of WG1 Designations during 2016 was overseeing the IAU Registry for Acronyms sponsored by the Centre de Données Astronomiques de Strasbourg (CDS). The Clearing House screens the submissions for accuracy and conformity to the IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature. From its beginning in 1997 through May 2017, there have been 342 submissions and 291 acceptances. Commission B2 has also started the organization of a new working group focused on Virtual Astronomy and Data Centres. This new WG chaired by Dr. Mark Allen, will participate in the bi-annual International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA) meetings, and the annual Astronomical Data Analysis and Software Systems (ADASS) conferences. These venues provide the working environment for the development of interoperability standards for astronomical data and services, and for the sharing of results and best practices. The working group activities are aimed at providing a link between these (IVOA and ADASS) communities and the IAU, so that major results and status of these efforts may be reported at IAU general assemblies.