

IAU commission H3: Planetary Nebulae

Annual report, April 2020

The Commission supports and promoted research in planetary nebulae, especially its interactions with other areas of astrophysics. The OC has 6 members of whom three were newly elected at the last GA. The most important activity of the OC is to organize a general symposium on planetary nebulae, which has typically been held every years in a sequence that goes back to the 1970's.

In the past year the OC has put out the call for bids to host the next such symposium. The deadline was in November, after which the OC interacted with the two main bidders. Eventually the bid to host it in Krakow, Poland, was accepted. This was based on a strong research community in planetary nebulae in the host nation, an exciting location with one of the top universities in Poland, and the possibility for outreach activities which has always been a very important part of the work on planetary nebulae. The symposium will be chaired by Prof Ryszard Szczerba. The OC is currently working on selecting the SOC, taking careful account of the rules of the IAU. The symposium is scheduled for the summer of 2022. We will apply to have it awarded as the IAU symposium.

The OC has been involved in the scheduled IAU Symposium 366, 'The origin of outflows in Evolved Stars' (Leuven, summer 2020), and is represented on the SOC. We are also involved with the APN meetings: the next such meeting is currently scheduled for 2021 in Grenada. Three of the OC members are on the SOC for this meeting.

Several other activities are under discussion. We have begun to compile some primers in the field, useful to beginning research students. This is important because of the very large diversity of PN research, covering stars, interstellar matter, dust, hydrodynamics, and several other areas, which can be difficult for new members of the community to cover. We are also looking into remote meetings, important because the community is dispersed over many locations, including many in developing countries.

Albert Zijlstra
President, H3