

IAU Division C Astronomy Education, Outreach and Heritage Annual Report (2021)

(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/divisions/C/info/)

I. Division C administration.

Past Steering Committee (until August 2021):

Susana E. Deustua (President)
Richard de Grijs (Vice-President)
Saeko S. Hayashi (Secretary)
Mary Kay Hemenway (Advisor - Past President)
J. M. Rodriguez Espinosa
Pamela L. Gay
R. Elizabeth M. Griffin
Katrien Kolenberg
Mirjana Povic
Paulo Sergio Bretones (Commission C1 President)
Richard Tresch Fienberg (Commission C2 President)
Wayne Orchiston (Commission C3 President)
Gudrun B. E. Wolfschmidt (Commission C4 President)
Constance Walker (Inter-Division Commission B-C Protection of Existing and Potential
Observatory Sites President)

Current Steering Committee (August 2021 - August 2024):

Richard de Grijs (President)
Edward Leocadio Gomez (Vice-President)
Mirjana Pović (Secretary)
Susana E. Deustua (Advisor - Past President)
Eleni Thomai Chatzichristou (member)
Steven Gullberg (member)
Rajesh Kochhar (member, until March 2022)
Mamta Pommier (member)
Akihiko Tomita (member)
Boonrucksar Soonthornthum (Commission C1 President)
Oana Sandu (Barbulete) (Commission C2 President)
Christiaan L. Sterken (Commission C3 President)
Juan Antonio Belmonte Aviles (Commission C4 President)

II. Current Division C structure.

Division C Commissions:

(4 Division Commissions and 1 Inter-Division Commission)

- Commission C1: Astronomy Education and Development
(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/C1/)
- Commission C2: Communicating Astronomy with the Public
(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/C2/)
- Commission C3: History of Astronomy
(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/C3/)
- Commission C4: World Heritage of Astronomy

[\(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/C4/\)](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/C4/)

- Inter-Division B-C Commission: Protection of Existing and Potential Observatory Sites

[\(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/B7/\)](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/commissions/B7/)

Division C Working Groups:

- Working Group on Key Initiatives in Education, Outreach and Development

[\(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/334/\)](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/334/)

- Star Names

[\(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/280/\)](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/280/)

- Inter-Division C-E Working Group: Solar Eclipses (Divisions C and E)

[\(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/93/\)](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/93/)

Additional note: The new Division C Working Group on Key Initiatives in Education, Outreach, and Development was proposed by the IAU Officers and Division C and has as a main goal to encompass a number of valuable, consolidated programmes promoted by the IAU in connection with education, outreach, and development. This newly formed working group will join the following initiatives: Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTTP), Network for Astronomy School Education (NASE), Pale Blue Dot (Astronomy for Global Citizenship and Environmental Awareness), and Universe Awareness (UNAWA).

III. Division C members.

[\(https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/divisions/C/members/\)](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/divisions/C/members/)

- Total number of active members: 2498
- Number of junior members: 236

IV. 2021 meetings under Division C.

In 2021, one Symposium was held that had requested Division C support:

- IAUS 366: The Origin of Outflows in Evolved Stars (Virtual Meeting, Belgium)

<https://www.iaus366.be>

Sixteen proposals were received and revised in 2021 for organising symposia in 2023. Out of these, Division C support was requested and provided to the following proposals:

- Planetary Nebulae: a Universal Toolbox in the Era of Precision Astrophysics
(PI. Orsolo DeMarco, Poland)
- From The Universe Back To Earth: Developing Astronomy To Meet Today's Natural Challenges (PI. Premadi Premana, Indonesia)
- Dark sky and astronomical heritage in boosting astro-tourism around the globe
(PI. Solomon B. Tessema, Ethiopia)
- Astronomy and Satellite Constellations: Pathways Forward
(PI. Constance Walker, Spain)

V. Division C newsletter.

Current Division C Steering Committee agreed on publishing the Newsletter every four months, distributing it to all members, and making it publicly available through the Division website. These Newsletters shall give more visibility to the work done under Division C, its Commissions, and Working Groups. The last prepared newsletter was published in January 2022. It provided a list of

important announcements shared by different IAU Offices, Division C Commissions, and Working Groups, plus the list of activities that have been carried out. The Newsletter can be seen here: https://www.iau.org/static/science/scientific_bodies/divisions/c/2022/divc-newsletter-jan-2022.pdf

VI. Preparations for the IAU General Assembly (GA) 2022 (Busan, Republic of Korea).

Division C is organising a 2-days meeting titled '*Towards inclusion in astronomy education, outreach, history, and heritage*' during the IAU GA 2022. This meeting will focus on two important themes:

- Day 1: '*Beyond the pandemic: a discussion of lessons learned and new opportunities in Astronomy Education and Outreach in the post-Covid era*' - reflecting on how education and outreach projects adapted to the COVID19 pandemic, the negative impacts and the positive solutions; and,

- Day 2: '*Respecting astronomy history and heritage: a discussion on the intersection of culture, science, and social movements*' the world has seen growing in recent years.

Through these 2 themes, Division C aims to represent some of the most pressing issues affecting its members and also the wider community with an interest in the work of Division C. The objective of this session is to open astronomical science to broader perspectives including gender, the role of native societies in preserving celestial heritage, and how astronomy can play a decisive role as an open discipline in the development of science in all continents.

VII. Collaboration with IAU Offices.

In 2021, the IAU Offices and Division C had not yet established formal collaborative links, although initial discussions were started to ensure closer collaboration. This continues in 2022.

The only formal link between Division C and the Offices is the ex officio appointment of the Division C President of (1) the Office of Astronomy for Education's (OAE) Steering Committee; and (2) the Office of Young Astronomers' (OYA) Steering Committee. In addition, the Division C President served on the 2021 Oversight Committee of the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) for the purposes of monitoring the process in which OAD grants were awarded.

In addition, in one of the recent meetings, it was agreed that all IAU Offices should feel free to pass on any calls, information, etc. they want to disseminate to Division C for inclusion in a quarterly newsletter. Urgent requests can be accommodated as received, and announcements can be send out every 2 months.

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In Memoriam: Division C is sad about the loss of **Prof. Rajesh Kochhar** from India who passed away in March 2022. He contributed for many years to different IAU activities, in particular to those related to Division C and several of its commissions.

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Edited by:
Division C Secretary, Mirjana Pović

Reviewed by:
Division C Steering Committee