

- **Date sent:** 3 March 2021
- **From:** David Soderblom
- **To:** Division G Stars and Stellar Physics
- **Subject:** IAU Div. G newsletter for 2021-March (for distribution, edited)

Colleagues:

We were due to meet at the General Assembly in Busan, Korea this year. As I hope you know, that has been postponed to 2022, but I feel reasonably confident that that session will actually take place.

Meanwhile I hope you are well, and it is time to share news.

Elections

Even if the GA is not held this year we will have elections for the officers of the Division, or Commissions, and of Working Groups. Here I will focus only on Division G, for which we need a new vice president (DVP) to replace Andrej Prsa as he becomes Division President (DP). We also need new members of the DSC, the division's steering committee.

Below I have copied portions from the IAU's page about the divisions for your reference.

I have asked for volunteers and so far the following have indicated their interest:

- Pascal Petit, France
- Steven Shore, Italy
- Ranjan Gupta, India
- Jorick Vink, UK (both SC and DVP)
- Jacco van Loon, UK (both SC and DVP)

Also, if I missed anyone who volunteered it is not intentional, so please let me know. Anyone in Division G can and should consider participating.

There is a web page to apply for division offices: https://www.iau.org/submissions/division_candidacy/

Passings

This time there are too many fine astronomers who have been lost to us:

- João E. Steiner,
Brazil: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/5841/>
- Paul D. Shankland,
USA: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/13848/>
- Dmitrij K. Nadyozhin,
Russia: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/2779/>

- Jozef Tremko,
Slovakia: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/2399/>
- George M. Rudnitskij,
Russia: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/1518/>
- Peter O. Vandervoort,
USA: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/2910/>
- Shashikumar M. Chitre,
India: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/2603/>
- Roger Cayrel,
France: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/2601/>
- Albert Boggess,
USA: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/1639/>
- Robert. D. Chapman,,
USA: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/3071/>
- John R. Stauffer,
USA: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/1178/>
- Roger Griffin, UK: <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/3833/>

Some of these people I knew well:

Roger Cayrel had a long career at IAP and worked on stellar atmospheres. He was quiet and reserved, quite a contrast to Giusa Cayrel de Strobel, his wife, who passed away about a decade ago.

Al Boggess was Project Scientist for the International Ultraviolet Explorer and worked at NAA's Goddard Space Flight Center. IUE was a big success, and he went on to become Project Scientist for the Space Telescope Project (i.e., Hubble).

John Stauffer was an especially good friend and worked on a number of missions and projects, most recently at IPAC in Pasadena. He was known for his work on pre-main sequence stars, rotation of stars, and the Pleiades. An obituary is at: <https://baas.aas.org/pub/2021i0306/release/1>

Roger Griffin published a huge number of papers on the orbits of spectroscopic binaries, using data from his own devices. In the 1970s he developed an instrument that imaged a stellar spectrum onto a template spectrum as an analog speedometer to push radial velocities to new levels.

All will be missed.

OAD news

- **Call for reviewers: IAU Office of Astronomy for Development**

The [IAU Office of Astronomy for Development](#) (OAD) promotes the use of astronomy as a tool for socioeconomic development. The primary instrument for this has been the OAD's annual open call for proposals, which has funded 200+ astronomy-for-development projects in 90+ countries over the last 7 years.

This is a call for members of the IAU to serve on the panel that reviews the proposals submitted to this annual funding opportunity. The panel comprises experts from the fields of astronomy, education, outreach and development. The call is run in two stages. At stage 1 reviewers are asked to score approximately 15 anonymised proposals of length ~2 pages. This usually happens over a 3 week period spanning May /June.

To get involved or find out more please get in touch with us at the OAD by *5 March 2021*:

Ramasamy Venugopal, rv@astro4dev.org

- The IAU CAP (Communicating Astronomy with the Public) conference will be held virtually this year from 24-27 May. Registration is free thanks to generous support from The Kavli Foundation.

The IAU is providing a few grants to support those who face barriers to online participation, such as high internet costs or childcare duties. The grants are meant for attendees who have limited means, e.g., colleagues from economically less privileged countries or situations and young scientists/communicators. All grant applicants should submit their oral/poster contribution before their grant applications

Deadline for abstracts and grants: 15 March

Contact: cap2021@oao.iau.org

<https://iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann21007/>

David Soderblom
U.S. National Committee for the IAU
President, Division G, Stars and Stellar Physics
Chair, IAU Membership Committee
Member, Working Group on Global Coordination of Ground and Space Astrophysics

Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore MD USA
drs@stsci.edu

From the IAU's web pages:

By-laws:

V. SCIENTIFIC DIVISIONS

17. The Divisions of the Union shall pursue the scientific objects of the Union within their respective fields of astronomy. Activities by which they do so include the encouragement and organization of collective investigations, and the discussion of questions relating to international agreements, cooperation, or standardization. They shall report to each General Assembly on the work they have accomplished and such new initiatives as they are undertaking.
18. Each Scientific Division shall consist of:
 - a. A Steering Committee, normally of 6-12 persons, including the Division President and Vice-President, and a Division Secretary appointed by the Steering Committee from among its members. The Steering Committee is responsible for conducting the business of the Division.
 - b. Members of the Union accepted by the Steering Committee in recognition of their special experience and interests.
19. Normally, the Division President is succeeded by the Vice-President at the end of the General Assembly following their election, but both may be re-elected for a second term. Before each General Assembly, the Steering Committee shall organize an election from among the membership, by electronic or other means suited to its scientific structure, of a new Steering Committee to take office for the following term. Election procedures should, as far as possible, be similar among the Divisions and require the approval of the Executive Committee.
20. Each Scientific Division may structure its scientific activities by creating a number of Commissions. In order to monitor and further the progress of its field of astronomy, the Division shall consider, before each General Assembly, whether its Commission structure serves its purpose in an optimum manner. It shall subsequently present its proposals for the creation, continuation or discontinuation of Commissions to the Executive Committee for approval.
21. With the approval of the Executive Committee, a Division may establish Working Groups to study well-defined scientific issues and report to the Division. Unless specifically re-established by the same procedure, such Working Groups cease to exist at the following General Assembly.

Working rules:

IX. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR DIVISIONS

The [Divisions](#) are the scientific backbone of the IAU. They have a main responsibility for monitoring the scientific and international development of astronomy within their subject areas, and for ensuring that the IAU will address the most significant issues of the time with maximum foresight, enterprising spirit, and scientific judgment. To fulfill this role IAU Divisions should maintain a balance between innovation and continuity.

The following Terms of Reference, revised and approved by the Executive Committee during the XXIXth General Assembly in Honolulu (2015), have been drafted to facilitate that process, within the rules laid down in the [Statutes § X](#) and the [Bye-Laws § V](#).

38. As specified in [Bye-Law 18](#), the scientific affairs of the Division are conducted by a Division Steering Committee, headed by the Division President, Vice-President, and Secretary. In addition, the Division Steering Committee is composed of the Presidents of their affiliated Commissions or their representatives (in the case of "Cross-Division" status of the Commission) (see §41b), and 6 at-large members elected by the Division membership. All significant decisions of the Division require the approval of the Steering Committee, and the President and Vice-President are responsible for organizing the work of the Committee so that its members are consulted in a timely manner. The Division Secretary is designated among the members of the Division Steering Committee (see §39e), but cannot be a Commission President. Contact information for the members of the Steering Committee shall be maintained at the Division web site.

Unless agreed otherwise by the Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis, the President of a Division cannot be President of another Division or of a Commission, or be Chair of a Working Group.

39. Individual and Junior Members of the Union can freely join or leave the Division(s) of their choice, but must belong to at least one Division. If they want to change their affiliation, members of a Division must inform immediately the Division Secretary, and notify the IAU Secretariat so that the membership database is kept up to date at all times.

39.a. The membership of the Division is regularly updated by the IAU Secretariat, and can be exported from the IAU membership database for the purposes of communication within the Division. Alternatively, the IAU Secretariat may provide help in disseminating information among Division members (via e-newsletters, etc.).

40. The effectiveness of the Division relies strongly on the scientific stature and dedication of its President and Vice-President to the mission of the Division. The Executive Committee, in proposing new Division Presidents and Vice-Presidents for election by the General Assembly, will rely heavily on the recommendations of the Steering Committee of the Division. In order to prepare a strong slate of candidates for these positions, and for the succession on the Steering Committee itself, the following procedures shall normally apply:

40.a. Candidates are proposed and selected from the membership of the Division on the basis of their qualifications, experience, and stature in the fields covered by the Division. In addition, the Steering Committees should have proper gender balance and broad geographical representation.

40.b. At least six months before a General Assembly, the outgoing Steering Committee submits to the membership of the Division a list of candidates for President, Vice-President (for which there should be the names of at least two persons willing to serve), and for the incoming Steering Committee, according to the composition defined in §37. The outgoing Steering Committee devises the procedure by which the requisite number of candidates is elected by the membership, and requests nominations from the entire membership in preparing this list or may call for self-appointment. It is desirable that more names are proposed than there are eligible positions to be filled on the new Steering Committee. A vote is then organized, normally electronically, among all the members for the above offices. The results of the elections are reported to the General Secretary for information at least three months before the General Assembly.

Electronic voting may be arranged by the Secretariat.

40.c. The Vice-President is normally nominated to succeed the President. The outgoing President participates in the deliberations of the new Steering Committee in an advisory capacity. Members of the Steering Committee normally serve a maximum of two terms, unless elected Vice-President of the Division. Presidents normally serve for only one term.

40.d. A member of the Steering Committee normally serves a maximum of two terms, unless elected Vice-President of the Division in her/his second term.

40.e. The Steering Committee decides on the procedures for designating the Division Secretary, who is responsible for maintaining the Division web site and/or providing the relevant information to the IAU Secretariat, records of the business of the Division, and other rules for conducting its business by physical meetings or remotely.

40.f. In the event of a newly formed Division, paragraphs 39a - 39c do not apply. The Executive Committee shall consult the Steering Committees of the relevant predecessor Divisions on possible candidates for President and Vice-President of the new Division for the next triennium. The Executive Committee shall select the names to be proposed to the General Assembly for election.

41. A key responsibility of the Steering Committee is to maintain an internal organization of Commissions and Working Groups in the Division which is conducive to the fulfillment of its mission. The Steering Committee shall take the following steps to accomplish this task in a timely and effective manner:

41.a. Within the first year after a General Assembly - with a business meeting of the Division at the General Assembly itself as a natural starting point - the Steering Committee shall discuss with its Commissions, and within the Steering Committee itself, if changes in its Commission and Working Group structure may enable it to accomplish its mission better in the future. As a rule, Working Groups may be created (following the rules in [Bye-Law 21](#) and [Bye-Law 23](#)) at any time for new activities that are either of a known, finite duration or are exploratory in nature. If experience, possibly from an existing Working Group, indicates that a major section of the Division's activities require a coordinating body for a longer period (a decade or more), the creation of a new Commission may be in order ([Statutes, § 22](#)), and a corresponding Call for Proposals for Commissions considered.

41.b. Whenever the Steering Committee is satisfied that the creation of a new Division Working Group or Commission is well motivated, it may take immediate action as specified in [Bye-Law 21](#) or [Bye-Law 23](#), independently of General Assemblies. However, in preparation for General Assemblies, the Steering Committee must submit for approval its complete proposal for the continuation, discontinuation, or merger of its Commissions and [Working Groups](#) to the General Secretary at least one month in advance of the Executive Committee meeting being held before the relevant General Assembly.

41.c. The President and Steering Committee maintain frequent contacts with the other IAU Divisions to ensure that any newly emerging or interdisciplinary matters are addressed appropriately and effectively.