IAU Division G, Stars and Stellar Physics, Quarterly Newsletter

What is this?

As a member of IAU’s Division G I intend to send you a brief e-mail every three months or so with relevant IAU news. Your comments are welcome.

IAU symposia and focus meetings in 2021

Here in the northern hemisphere we’re near the end of summer, a mostly quiet time. But, letters of intent for 2021 IAU-sponsored meetings will be due on September 15, not even two weeks away. 2021 is a General Assembly year, and that means most IAU symposia will be part of the GA. In addition, the GA will include many shorter Focus Meetings.

If you have an idea for a focus meeting or symposium to be held in 2021 then now is the time to start planning it. Last-minute proposals rarely do well because they are not as well thought-out. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Also, each General Assembly includes time for the divisions to have time for their own sessions. In Vienna last year Division G used one of the division days for a mini-symposium on asteroseismology. How can we use that time well in Busan?

New for Division G: An ombudsperson

Jacco van Loon of Commission G3 has helped to set up a new capability. The IAU embraces equality, diversity and inclusion, and condemns all forms of non-ethical behavior such as bullying, harassment and malpractice. Unfortunately there can be situations when you feel treated unfairly or unrespect, or when you see someone else being treated that way.

To provide a safe way for you to express these concerns anonymously, be it on behalf of yourself or as an active bystander, we in Division G have set up an on-line comment box: http://freesuggestionbox.com/pub/qxrqnsf

No one will know who wrote a comment. A very limited number of people within the IAU – currently only Jacco van Loon – will have access to the comments. The collected data will be reported in summarized and analyzed form at IAU Executive Committee level, and then be destroyed. It will not be passed on to anyone else.

If you would like to be contacted to further discuss your comment then you will need to leave contact details in the comment. At this stage we are running this as a pilot program, to gauge the
range and level of issues, and to assess the viability of turning it into something that can become more responsive. Any follow-up e-mails will be kept strictly confidential, will only be used to inform the report writing, and will then also be destroyed.

You are welcome to recommend the IAU Division G ombud to any of your colleagues.

Passings of colleagues

The following Division G member passed away recently:

- Peter Notni, Germany: https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/2140/
- Toma Tomov, Poland: https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/13468/
- Yurij N. Efremov, Russia: https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/1755/
- Fiorella Castelli, Italy: https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/individual/4580/

All will be missed.

Symposium announcement: “Dynamics of solar and stellar convection zones and atmospheres”

IAU symposium 365 will be held in Moscow from August 25 to 29, 2020. The main topics are:

- Convection (solar – on different scales – and stellar).
- Differential rotation and meridional circulation (both solar and stellar).
- Global dynamo (in the Sun and stars; solar-cycle observed patterns and predictions).
- Helioseismology and asteroseismology (both global and local; probing subsurface structure and dynamics).
- Local processes of magnetic-flux emergence, sunspot and starspot formation (observed patterns of sunspot evolution, small-scale motions, local dynamo).

New observational capabilities are making it possible to study convection and its effects in both the Sun and in stars to an unprecedented degree, and many members of Division G will find this of interest. The SOC chair is Alexander Getting, and complete information may be found at: http://iaus365.sinp.msu.ru

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