

IAU Executive Committee Working Group of Junior Members (EC WG of JMs)
Annual Report 2019
(written 04/05/2020)

co-Chairs of the WG: Fatoumata Kebe (France) and Maria Drozdovskaya (Switzerland)

8-member Organizing Committee (OC) of the WG: Camilla Danielski (France), Chris Moore (USA), Ellie Sansom (Australia), Fatoumata Kebe (France), Gaël Buldgen (Switzerland), Maria Drozdovskaya (Switzerland), Sudeshna Boro Saikia (Austria), Themiya Nanayakkaya (Australia)

Resigned OC members with resignation dates in brackets: Dary Alexandra Ruíz-Rodríguez (USA) [14/02/2020], Fabio Pacucci (USA) [02/02/2020], Megan Ansdell (USA) [03/12/2019], Long Wang (Germany) [24/05/2019]

Establishment of the WG:

XXXth IAU GA in Vienna, Austria in August 2018.

Membership:

All IAU JMs are automatically considered members of the WG. 352 JMs accepted during the 2017/2018 round, and 192 JMs accepted during the 2018/2019 round. Preliminary estimate is of 221 JMs being accepted during the 2019/2020 round. Total IAU JMs: **765 WG members**.

Internal OC activities:

- regular continuous communication via a dedicated Slack channel
- 15 telecons between September 2018 up to and including April 2020 via Zoom
- 1 in-person OC meeting was held at the Center for Space and Habitability (CSH) in Bern, Switzerland: 13-14/06/2019

Actions of the WG in 2019 (from its establishment up to and including April 2020):

- Working with the IAU Officers, Executive Committee and Membership Committee to smooth out the IAU JM application procedure and resolve any issues that the JMs may encounter in the process
- Devising a modified definition of a JM upon discussion between the OC and the IAU Officers, which was subsequently, ratified at the IAU EC103 meeting (13-17/05/2019)
- Defining the goals of the WG, its potential actions, identification of the needs of JMs; defining OC and WG membership, as well its mode of operation
- Establishing a WG webpage on the IAU domain, including a WG description, a complete member list, JM statistics from past application rounds, and a WG promo slide
- Establishing of WG social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube), which are in further development at the moment
- Preparing a photo competition to showcase JMs performing science, lab work, presentations, outreach, etc., that will be shared on our social networks, which is soon to be executed
- Communicating with all the JMs of the IAU via a dedicated mailing list: 3 emails have been sent (26/02/2019; 26/06/2019; 01/05/2020)

- Co-Chairs took part in the IAU100 Under One Sky Event at the Palace of the Academies in Brussels, Belgium, 11-12/04/2019 as representatives of the JMs at the event
- Early Career (ECR) lunch with mentoring opportunities was organized at the Nederlandse Astronomenconferentie (NAC) 2019 on 29/05/2019
- Major effort of the OC of the WG has been put towards the IAU Early Career Astronomer (ECA) Conference 2020
 - Envisioned dates: 23-27/11/2020
 - Envisioned venue: International Conference Center of Sorbonne Université, Paris, France
 - Envisioned back up venue (in case of financial difficulties): IAP, Paris, France
 - Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, **the IAU ECA 2020 Conference has now been cancelled**. The OC is now actively exploring virtual alternatives and an alternative physical meeting in proximity of the XXXIth IAU GA in Busan, Republic of Korea in August, 2021. One telecon has already been held with two members of the potential LOC of the envisioned event.
 - At the time of cancellation, the conference was in advanced stages of planning: both venues were reserved; preliminary program devised; speakers invited and many were confirmed; website and pre-registration were set up; sponsorship booklet was created; and sponsors were being approached.