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# ArAS Newsletter



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## LOCAL NEWS

### Camp for Physics Students at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory



Areg Mickaelian lecturing for the students. BAO

On 26-27 February, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) together with the Student Scientific Society of the YSU Faculty of Physics organized a two-day camp at BAO for students.

The camp was dedicated to the “Mathematical problems in astronomy. Direct and Inverse Problems” and was intended for the YSU first and second-year students who had basic knowledge of physics and mathematical analysis.

During those two days, the students had the opportunity to attend the lectures by BAO astronomers.

Among the lecturers were Areg Mickaelian, Director of BAO, Haik Harutyunyan, Deputy Director of BAO, Hovhannes Pikichyan, Senior Research Associate, Arthur Nikoghossian, Principle Research Associate, Gagik Ter-Kazarian, Principle Research Associate, Ararat Yeghikyan, Principle Research Associate and Ruben Andraasyan, Senior Research Associate. We hope that such meetings will be the students’ first step towards the world of Astronomy and science in general.

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Artashes Petrosian's 70th Anniversary



Artashes Petrosian

On 16 February, Dr. Artashes Petrosian celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Artashes Petrosian was born on 16 February, 1952 in Yerevan. He graduated from the Department of Astrophysics of the Yerevan State University (YSU) in 1974 and immediately started working at BAO. He took his PhD degree in 1981.

In 1986, Petrosian became the Head of a Research Group, and in 1999, a Leading Research Associate.

A. Petrosian was the Director of BAO in 1994-1999, and in 1996-1998 also the Minister of Education and Science of Armenia. He has been a lecturer at the Department of Astrophysics at YSU. He has headed a number of international projects as well as, M.Sc. and PhD theses on astrophysics.

Petrosian has worked in the astronomical centres of the USA, France, Italy, and some other countries, has accomplished observing programmes with BAO, Russian, French, USA, Indian and other telescopes, as well as space telescopes. In 1994-2000, he was the Coordinator of the French-Armenian collaboration in Astronomy (PICS and Jumelage).

A. Petrosian is a well-known specialist in different fields of extragalactic astronomy: AGNs, starburst (SB) galaxies, blue compact dwarf galaxies (BCDGs), extragalactic supernovae, etc. He has studied Markarian and Second Byurakan Survey (SBS) galaxies.

Petrosian is an author of 180 papers that were published in highly-ranked international journals and several electronic catalogs.

He is a member of IAU, EAS, EAAS, and ArAS (2002).

We congratulate Artashes Petrosian on his birthday and wish him good health.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Levon Pogosian; Winner of Buchalter Cosmology Prize 2021

Levon Pogosian, Armenian physicist, Simon Fraser University (SFU) of Vancouver's Physics Professor was awarded the [2021 Buchalter Cosmology Prize](#).

Pogosian and his collaborator Karsten Jedamzik from the University of Montpellier will share the First Prize award for their research on relieving the Hubble tension with primordial magnetic fields.

*The Hubble tension* is one of cosmology's greatest puzzles that concerns the apparent



Levon Pogosian

difference in the Hubble constant, or how fast the universe is expanding today, determined using different types of observations. Pogosian and Jedamzik showed how accounting for magnetic fields in the early universe can help to reconcile the difference.

The award committee recognized their work as “a novel and original framework to naturally resolve the Hubble tension via additional baryon inhomogeneities induced by primordial magnetic fields, which if confirmed, would have significant impact on our understanding of the Universe and to future of cosmology.”

#### Note

The Buchalter Cosmology Prize was established in 2014. It recognizes “ground-breaking theoretical, observational, or experimental work in cosmology that has the potential to produce a breakthrough advance in our understanding of the origin, structure, and evolution of the universe.” This year's winners were announced by the American Astronomical Society.

Levon Pogosian graduated from Yerevan State University in Armenia and received his PhD from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He was a research fellow at Imperial College London, Tufts University and Syracuse University before taking on a faculty position at SFU, where he is now Professor of Physics. He is a theoretical cosmologist using the observable universe as a laboratory for testing the laws of nature. He is particularly interested in dark energy and modified gravity, cosmic magnetic fields, cosmic strings and other relics of the Big Bang.

## OBITUARIES

### Astronomer Armen Gyulbudaghian Passed Away



Armen Gyulbudaghian

It is with great sadness that we announce to you the passing of Dr. Armen Gyulbudaghian, BAO Leading Research Associate.

Armen Gyulbudaghyan was born on December 18, 1948 in Yerevan.

In 1971, he graduated from the Department of Astrophysics of the Yerevan State University. From the same year he started working at the BAO.

In 1979 he received his PhD degree, and in 2000 the degree of Doctor of Science.

A. Gyulbudaghyan was a member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), Scientific Council of BAO and Special Council of BAO. He was also a lecturer at the Department of Astrophysics, Yerevan State University (YSU)

His main research fields were young stellar objects, dark nebulae and globules.

A. Gyulbudaghyan authored more than 90 papers in peer-reviewed journals and proceedings of international meetings.

## Astronomer Norair Melikian Passed Away

It is with great sadness that we announce to you the passing of BAO Leading Research Associate Norair Melikian.

Norayr Melikian was born on December 27, 1948 in Artashat – an old Armenian city located in the Ararat valley not far from Yerevan. He got his secondary education in his native city where he graduated from the school with a gold medal.

In 1968-1974, he studied at the Faculty of Physics of the Yerevan State University (YSU).

In 1973, while being a student, N. Melikian started his scientific research and was hired to take part in the observational programs that were in progress at the BAO.

Right after his graduation from the YSU, in 1974, he started a new research theme as an assistant astronomer under the supervision of Prof. Ludwig Mirzoyan in the Department of Physics of Stars and Nebulae. In 1977, he became a Junior Research Associate, in 1986 a Researcher and already in 1990, a Senior Researcher Associate. N. Melikian held the position of Deputy Director of the BAO from 2006 to 2012.

It should be noted, that initially the main area of his research was connected with the flare stars revealed in stellar clusters and in the general field. In 1984, N. Melikian defended his PhD thesis, entitled “Flare Stars in Stellar Aggregates and in Solar Vicinity”. After the defense of the thesis, the field of his scientific interests became wider including many new types of variable or non-stationary stellar objects: T Tau type stars, cataclysmic variables, Herbig-Haro objects, Mira type variables, red giants and supergiants.

N. Melikian authored more than 100 scientific papers that were published in *Astrofizika*, *Astronomical Journal*, *Astrophysical Journal*, *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, *IBVS*, etc.

N. Melikian was a member of the Scientific Council of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (1994-2022), International Astronomical Union (IAU), the European Astronomical Society (EAS) and the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS).



Norair Melikian

*ArAS News* is the electronic newsletter of the Armenian Astronomical Society. It was distributed to all ArAS members from the beginning of 2002, 4 times a year, typically at the end of each trimester. In 2009-2014, 8 issues annually and since 2015, 12 issues annually have been released.

ArASNews publishes information materials on ArAS, Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory and the Armenian astronomy in general, reports on ArAS Annual Meetings and participation of the Armenian astronomers in important international meetings, articles on occasion of anniversaries of famous Armenian astronomers and ArAS members, acceptance of new ArAS members, achievements of the Armenian astronomers, astronomical education in Armenia, Armenian archaeoastronomy, as well as science articles (reviews) on important studies.

So, if you want to share your studies with the scientific community, send us your articles to [melin.asryan@gmail.com](mailto:melin.asryan@gmail.com). They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

[ArAS Newsletter issues](#) are available online.