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ArAS Newsletter



ANSEF Award 2022 recipients

BYURAKAN ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY



EDITOR: MELINE ASRYAN

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LOCAL NEWS

ANSEF Award 2022 Recipients Announced

The Armenian National Science and Education Fund award (ANSEF) Executive Board has reviewed 139 proposals for the 2022 award. As a result [27 awards](#) were identified among which was also a research group from the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO).

Three of the above-mentioned awards are provided by the Young Scientists Support Program of the Republic of Armenia and one is named after famous scientist Nerses Krikorian.

Director of BAO Areg Mickaelian received “Nerses Krikorian award” for the research titled “Search and Studies of Luminous X-ray Galaxies”. His research group members were Gurgen Paronyan, Hayk Abrahamyan, Gor Mikayelyan and Andranik Sukiasyan.



Areg Mickaelian, Hayk Abrahamyan, Gurgen Paronyan, Gor Mikayelyan, Andranik Sukiasyan

Another ANSEF grant on astrophysical subject was awarded to Sargis Gasparyan from ICRA.Net.

ANSEF was founded in 2000 in New York. Operating under the auspices of the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), it provides financial and other material resources to support scientific research, advanced technology development and scholarly work in the Republic of Armenia.

Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory in the Eyes of Foreign Mass Media

Being the host of the South West and Central Asian Regional Office of Astronomy for Development and one of the most active scientific institutions in Armenia, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) has recently been in the centre of international media's attention.

The history and activities of the BAO are regularly covered by foreign press and international magazines. Read further to find the two of such magazines published in 2021 and 2022.

Swiss [Echo Magazine's Issue N19](#) published in May 2022 covers the current activities of the BAO, as well as introduces some interesting facts of its past. On the cover of the magazine is a BAO senior researcher Kamo Gigoyan under the dome of the [ZTA-2.6 telescope](#).



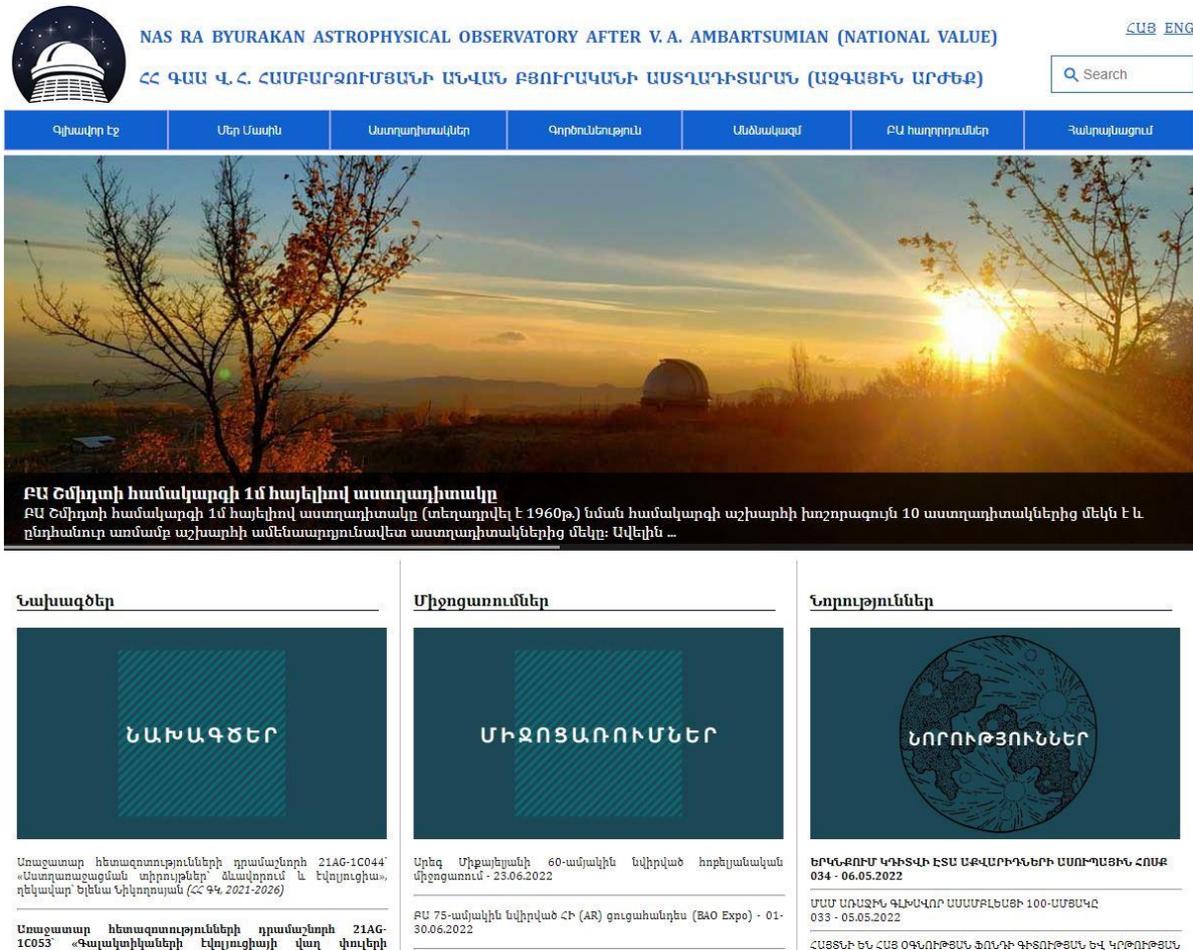
Le Mouvement magazine tells its readers about the BAO in its [N112 issue](#) of 2021. You can read about the observatory's glorious past and present activities, learn about Markarian's galaxies, the history of the 1m Schmidt telescope, as well as discover young researchers. On the cover of the issue is Henrik Sargsyan, a leading engineer of the BAO, in the telescope tower of the 1m Schmidt telescope.

It should be noted that the BAO has also been introduced to the foreign readers by numerous Russian press media (TV companies, magazines, newspapers, websites), the

Armenian AYP radio in France, a number of French magazines, the American Reflector magazine, the Australian SBS radio station, Artsakh public TV, as well as through the mass media of Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Latvia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Lebanon and other countries (links are regularly posted on the BAO website).

Armenia’s Observatory Through the Updated Webpage

The Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory’s (BAO) webpage has undergone changes to be more user-friendly and modern.



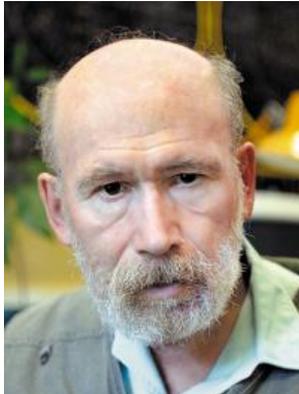
Thanks to the efforts of the Head of the Astrominformatics Department and the Public Relations Department, the BAO webpage has been significantly changed and updated during the last three months.

A large number of new sections and subsections have been added in the menu bar. The changes include but are not limited to:

- “About Us” section. It has been extended and now you can find relevant information in the newly added subsections called “About Us”, “History”, “Most Important Events” and “The FBS as UNESCO Heritage”.
- “Activities” sections. The subsections “Projects”, “Collaboration”, “Publications”, “Books”, “Meetings”. “Seminars” and “Annual Reports” have been added. You can learn about 89 scientific projects with their detailed information in the “Projects” subsection.
- Etc...

ANNIVERSARIES

Nikolai Bochkarev's 75th Anniversary



Nikolai Bochkarev

On May 19, Prof. Nikolai Bochkarev, the foreign member of Armenian Astronomical Society celebrated his 75th anniversary today.

N. Bochkarev was born on May 19, 1947 in Moscow (Russia). He got his PhD in Mathematical Sciences at the Moscow State University in 1974. In 1988, he became Doctor of Mathematical Sciences. In 1974-86, he worked at Sternberg Astronomical Institute of Moscow. Since 1975, N. Bochkarev has been a professor at the Astrophysics department of the Moscow State University.

In 1990, he was one of the initiators of the foundation of the Astronomical Society of the Soviet Union, which after the disintegration of the USSR was changed to Euro-Asian Astronomical Society (EAAS). Bochkarev was the founding Chair and many years served as one of the Co-Chairs of EAAS.

In 1991, he was the editor-in-chief of Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions Journal, while now he's the editor of Soviet (Russian) Encyclopedia (Moscow).

N. Bochkarev is member of Armenian Astronomical Society (since 2009), All-Union Astronomical and Geodesical Society, International Astronomical Union (invited lecturer, Argentina, 1991), Soviet (Euro-Asian) Astronomical Society (co-chairman, 1990), European Astronomical Society, Russian Union Scientific Society and other societies.

We congratulate Nikolai Bochkarev on his birthday and wish him good health.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A 100th Anniversary of the First IAU General Assembly

One hundred years ago, on May 2-10, 1922, the [First General Assembly](#) of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) was held in Rome. 33 astronomical delegates from Belgium, France, Italy, Great Britain and the USA were present. As a result of the conferences and studies, it was decided to set up 32 working committees, which will involve active researchers in any special branches of astronomy.



Photo © IAU

The IAU General Assemblies are held every 3 years and last for about 2 weeks. They are known for their rich scientific programs. Conferences are the most important scientific meetings of the IAU, which aim to develop astronomy by studying the issues of the time. During the thematic consultations, IAU members are introduced to scientific topics, aiming to advance new scientific fields.

The 31st IAU General Assembly will take place on August 2-11 this year. It was planned for 2021, but was postponed because of Covid-19. 7 conferences and 9 thematic consultations were approved for the General Assembly 2022.

The assembly will be attended by the director of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) Areg Mickaelian and other researchers. Being active on international platforms, the BAO has been participating in the IAU General Assemblies since 1952.

Recipient of Gruber Foundation Cosmology Prize 2022 Announced

The Gruber Foundation Cosmology prize 2022 has been awarded to Frank Eisenhauer of the [Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics](#), for his development of revolutionary technology that has provided evidence for the existence of a black hole at the centre of the Milky Way.

In 2018, the GRAVITY experiment traced the behaviour of various phenomena near Sagittarius A*, or Sgr A*, a supermassive, and therefore gravitationally voracious, invisible object near the centre of our galaxy. Thanks to Eisenhauer's technical innovations, the GRAVITY team found that the behaviour of stars and gas near the galactic centre matches theoretical predictions consistent with the existence of a black hole.



Frank Eisenhauer

Eisenhauer will receive the US\$500 000 award as well as a gold laureate pin at a ceremony on 2 August at the [XXXI General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union](#). The citation honours the “*unprecedented and exquisite*” precision of his instrumentation.

The Gruber Foundation [Cosmology Prize](#), which is co-sponsored by the IAU, recognises scientists whose discoveries have driven fundamental advances in our understanding of the Universe. The prize is awarded annually to leading scientists and cosmologists who have made groundbreaking discoveries that change or challenge our understanding of the Universe.

Recipients of the Shaw Prize in Astronomy 2022 Announced

The Shaw Prize in Astronomy 2022 is awarded in equal shares to Lennart Lindegren, Professor Emeritus, Department of Astronomy and Theoretical Physics, Lund Observatory, Lund University, Sweden and Michael Perryman, Adjunct Professor, School of Physics, University College Dublin, Ireland for their lifetime contributions to space astrometry. This prestigious annual prize is one way in which the Shaw Prize Foundation and the IAU are collaborating on their shared goal of promoting astronomy.



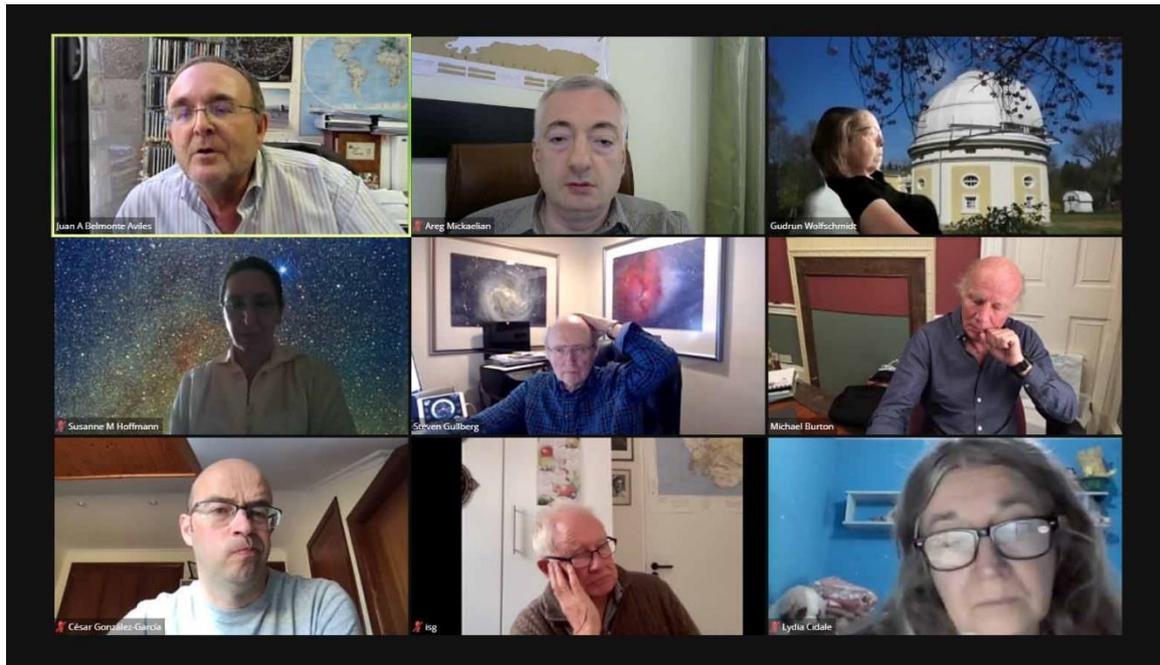
Michael Perryman and Lennart Lindegren

The award recognises their role in the conception and design of the European Space Agency's Hipparcos and Gaia missions. It is also intended to honour the much larger community of astronomers and engineers who made Hipparcos and Gaia possible. The missions succeeded because of the collective efforts of many people lasting over half a century.

The Shaw Prize recognises two of these individuals who have made sustained key scientific contributions to the two missions. Lennart Lindegren originated many of the concepts of the Hipparcos mission design and was leader of one of the two independent teams that carried out the data analysis for Hipparcos. He was a member of the Hipparcos science team for two decades and the Gaia science team for two decades after that.

Michael Perryman was Project Scientist for Hipparcos from 1981 to 1997, Chair of the Hipparcos Science Team for the same period, and lead author on the 1997 paper describing the Hipparcos catalogue. Perryman was also Project Scientist for the Gaia mission from 1995 to 2008, Chair of the Gaia Science Advisory Group from 1995 to 2000, and Chair of the Gaia Science Team from 2001 to 2008. Lindegren and Perryman proposed the concept for Gaia in the 1990s and were instrumental in its scientific and technical design.

IAU Commission C4 World Heritage and Astronomy Online Meeting



Screenshot of the IAU Commission C4 Online Meeting

On May 20, an online meeting of the IAU commission C4 on World Heritage and Astronomy was held. The meeting covered several issues, including:

- Division C Newsletter,
- Planetariums as Intangible World Heritage sustained by German authorities
- Portal to the Heritage of Astronomy and C.C4 Webpages
- Division C days at IAU GM in Busan
- IAU Symposium 'Dark sky and astronomical heritage in boosting astro-tourism around the globe'. Nov 15–19, 2023. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Being a member of the C4 organizing committee, director of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) Areg Mickaelian was among participants.

It should be reminded that the BAO has been included in the “Outstanding Astronomical Heritage” list of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). Learn more about that in the previous [ArAS News issue](#).

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. They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

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