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ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

# ArAS Newsletter



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## LOCAL NEWS

### The 9<sup>th</sup> Byurakan Science Camp

On 16-22 July, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Byurakan Science Camp (8BSC). It brought together 35 children aged 09-12 from different regions of the Republic of Armenia. The participants of the Physics competition by the Fund for Armenian relief (FAR) in Sisian region were also involved in the camp.

As always, the Science Camp stood out with its rich program. It launched with the introductory excursions, which helped the children to learn about the observatory, its founder Victor Ambartsumian's life and activities, as well as the telescopes.

Within the framework of the program, the children enriched



9BSC

their knowledge by participating in interactive lectures held by specialists of various fields, including BAO researchers and invited speakers.

The Camp participants also took part in different games and competitions, testing their knowledge in Astronomy, Geography and more. During their free time, they went to the sightseeing in the nearby historical places and had fun celebrating the Armenian holiday, Vardavar.

On the last day of the Science Camp, winners of the competitions were awarded special prizes. Getting acquainted with the impressions of the participants, Sona Farmanyanyan and Eduard Karapetyan, Deputy Director of the FAR wished all the children good luck and success.

It should be noted, that the 9BSC camp was partially funded by FAR.



9BSC

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting 2023

On July 10-14, the annual meeting of the European Astronomical Society (EAS, formerly EWASS) took place in Krakow, Poland. It was a hybrid event held at the ICE Krakow Conference Centre in Poland, with the plenaries and symposia streamed on the virtual platform. The overall program included 13 conferences, 41 special sessions and 17 lunch sessions.

A group of 8 people from the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) also took part in the conference, namely BAO director Areg Mickaelian, researchers Hayk Abrahamyan, Hasmik Andreasyan and Gor Mikayelyan, junior researcher Anahit Samsonyan, assistant astronomer Liana Hambarzumyan, head of the BAO public relations department Gayane Baleyan and BAO press secretary Meline Asryan.

Areg Mickaelian and Anahit Samsonyan presented reports, while the others introduced e-posters.

The EAS, often together with one of its affiliated societies, organises its annual meetings to enhance its links with national communities.

Note: EAS was founded in 1990 and currently unites 32 national astronomical societies, including the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS). The EAS meeting 2007 was held in Yerevan, Armenia.



BAO Staff at EAS Annual Meeting. 2023

## Cooperation Between Regional Offices of Astronomy

Within the framework of Astronomy project development and coordination, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory staff visited the Leiden University were successful. The program is co-sponsored by the European Union's Erasmus+ project and features a scientific, educational and public component.

The business trips were done by the BAO director Areg Mickaelian, researcher Naira Azatyan, assistant astronomer Derenik Andreasyan and head of the BAO Public Relations Department Gayane Baleyan.

Cooperation has been established between the IAU E-ROAD and SWCA ROAD which is located at the BAO. The coordinator of the former project is Prof. Pedro Russo, and SWCA ROAD coordinator is Sona Farmanyan.

It should be noted that Leiden University is one of the most important universities not only in the Netherlands, but also in the world, where astronomy has always been active. The old Leiden Observatory, founded in 1633, is considered the oldest university observatory in the world.



Leiden University. 2023

## ANNIVERSARIES

### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dr. Tigran Magakian

On July 16, BAO principal research associate Dr. Tigran Yu. Magakian celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Tigran Magakian was born on July 16, 1953 in Yerevan, Armenia. He graduated from the Yerevan State University, Department of Astrophysics in 1975 and started working at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO). He was a post-graduate during 1976-78, and defended his PhD thesis in 1979 on study of the so-called cometary nebulae.



Tigran Magakian. BAO. 2023.

In 1989 he became a senior research associate and head of a research group. In 2001 Magakian defended a doctoral thesis on the anisotropic activity of pre-main-sequence stars. From 2001 he is a leading research associate at the Byurakan Observatory.

For many years he has been involved in the observations on 2.6m telescope in Byurakan and on 6m telescope of Special Astrophysical Observatory (Russia), actively using the most modern methods of astronomical spectroscopy.

Tigran Magakian has published more than 130 papers in major astronomical journals (A&A, Russian Astron. J, Astrofizika, etc.) which are devoted to the study of young stellar objects in our Galaxy. He also published a Merged catalogue of reflection nebulae (A&A, 399, 141, 2003).

T. Magakian's research interests concern Herbig-Haro objects, T Tauri stars, cometary nebulae, jets from young stars, and many other objects and phenomena. Among his other achievements are the studies of so-called spectral asymmetry in cometary nebulae and discoveries and thorough analysis of many dozens of Herbig-Haro objects.

Magakian has participated in a number of international astronomy meetings, including JENAM, IAU Symposia and Colloquia. On his initiative, new international collaborations have been established with French, Japanese, UK and USA astronomers.

As an interesting and unusual hobby of Magakian his participation in various games on intellect and erudition should be mentioned, where he had many achievements and received the "Crystal Owl" award by the Armenian and Russian TV channels. Magakian is a member of the

International Astronomical Union (IAU, 1988), the European Astronomical Society (EAS, 1991), the Euro-Asian Astronomical Society (EAAS, 1996) and the Armenian Astronomical Society (1999). He was one of the active founders of our society in 1999-2001. In 2002, Magakian was elected in the Scientific-Technical Council of EAAS.

## OTHER NEWS

### Revolutionizing Astronomy: Building Telescopes on the Moon?

According to Astronomy magazine, “Lunar exploration is undergoing a renaissance.”

Dozens of missions, coordinated by multiple space agencies - and increasingly by commercial companies - are scheduled to visit the Moon by the end of this decade. While most of these missions will involve small robotic spacecraft, NASA's ambitious Artemis program aims to bring humans back to the lunar surface by the mid-2020s. This surge in lunar activity is driven by various factors. Among them are geopolitical motives and the search for lunar resources. However, science is also sure to be a major beneficiary.

The Moon remains a captivating object of study, holding crucial clues about the origin and evolution of our solar system. Moreover, it serves as a valuable platform for observational astronomy.

Read about the benefits that the Moon can offer [here](#).



NASA/Ernie Wright



*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.

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