

# ArAS News

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ARMENIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (A r A S)

No. 65 (August 26, 2013)

---



---

## CONTENTS:

1. Update on IAU Symposium #304 in Armenia	2
2. EWASS-2013 in Turku, Finland	2
3. Armenia participated in the IPDA Steering Committee meeting	4
4. Fourth Byurakan Summer School and IAU S304 training	5
5. ArAS Online Popular Astronomical Journal "Astghagitak"	7
6. Anniversaries: Tigran Magakian – 60	7

---

The ArAS Newsletter in the INTERNET: <http://www.aras.am/ArasNews/arasnews.html>

## UPDATE on IAU SYMPOSIUM #304 in ARMENIA



The IAU Symposium #304 “*Multiwavelength AGN Surveys and Studies*” will take place in Armenia on 7-11 Oct 2013. The Early Registration and Abstract submission periods are now over and the scientific program has been set up, while LOC is hardly working on the local organizational matters. We expect a rich scientific program with many new results and exciting talks, including 31 invited ones, 53 contributed ones and 66 posters (<http://iaus304.aras.am/program.html>).

So far, the list of participants includes 163 astronomers from 32 countries (Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, UK, USA, Ukraine, Venezuela) (<http://iaus304.aras.am/participants.html>).

### Contacts

Phone: +374-10-525505  
Fax: +374-10-580656  
E-mail: [iaus304@aras.am](mailto:iaus304@aras.am)  
URL: <http://iaus304.aras.am/>

*Areg Mickaelian, Co-chair of SOC and Chair of LOC, IAU Symp. #304*

## EWASS-2013 in TURKU, FINLAND



The European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (EWASS), formerly known as JENAM (Joint European and National Astronomical Meeting) in 2013 took place on 8-13 July 2013 in Logomo Centre in Turku, Finland. EWASS 2013 hosted 7 plenary talks, 12 Symposia, 16 Special Sessions, and 5 Special Meetings on various aspects of modern astronomy. The conference addressed a wide range of topics in Astronomy and Space Sciences and related technologies that were of interest to the European astronomical community. The EAS General Assembly, the EAS Council Meeting, the GREAT Plenary Meeting (PM6), Plenary discussion on

the ASTRONET Mid-Term Review and awards of EAS prizes also took place during EWASS 2013. The following meetings and talks were included in the program:

### ***EWASS Symposia***

- S1: Solar activity and its manifestations in the heliosphere (*Convener*: Rami Vainio)
- S2: The physics of accretion on compact objects (*Convener*: Juri Poutanen)
- S3: Science with Planck data (*Convener*: Pekka Heinämäki)
- S4: The mystery of ellipticals (*Convener*: Peter Johansson)
- S5: Local group, local cosmology (*Conveners*: Matteo Monelli / Stefania Salvadori)
- S7: Stellar magnetic activity across the HR diagram (*Convener*: Maarit Mantere)
- S8: Deaths of massive stars as supernovae and gamma-ray bursts (*Convener*: Seppo Mattila)
- S9: Extreme physics of neutron stars (*Convener*: Dmitry Yakovlev)
- S10: The co-evolution of black holes and galaxies (*Convener*: Jari Kotilainen)
- S11: Gaia research for European astronomy training (*Convener*: Nicholas Walton)
- S12: The gamma-ray sky in the era of Fermi and Cherenkov telescopes (*Conveners*: Tuomas Savolainen / Elina Lindfors)

### ***EWASS Special Sessions***

- Sp1: Astronomy education and public outreach (*Convener*: Mikko Hanski)
- Sp2: RADIONET
- Sp3: Fundamental stellar parameters (*Convener*: Luca Casagrande)
- Sp4: The origin of interstellar dust (*Convener*: Patrice Bouchet)
- Sp5: Thick discs: clues for galaxy formation and evolution (*Convener*: Sebastien Comeron)
- Sp6: AGN, galaxy mergers, supermassive black holes and gravitational waves (*Conveners*: Stefanie Komossa / Mauri Valtonen)
- Sp7: Science with present and future interferometric instruments (*Convener*: Jean Surdej)
- Sp8: Galactic molecular clouds and their chemistry (*Convener*: Mika Juvela)
- Sp9: Stellar dynamics and celestial mechanics in modern astrophysics (*Conveners*: Rainer Spurzem / Seppo Mikkola)
- Sp10: Chemo-dynamical galaxy evolution (*Convener*: Gerhard Hensler)
- Sp11: Rocks in our Solar System (*Convener*: Tomas Kohout)
- Sp12: A fresh look at the stellar initial mass function (*Convener*: Ignacio Ferreras)
- Sp13: Starburst galaxies now and then with ALMA (*Convener*: Jari Kotilainen)
- Sp14: LOFT, the large observatory for X-ray timing (*Convener*: Enrico Bozzo)
- Sp15: ESA
- Sp16: ESO

### ***EWASS Special Meetings***

- SM1: EAS Council Meeting
- SM2: A lunch meeting with the affiliated societies
- SM3: EAS Council Meeting
- SM4: Plenary discussion on the ASTRONET Mid-Term Review
- SM5: GREAT Meeting

### ***EWASS Special Plenary Sessions and Talks***

- SpPt1: Plenary Talk: Tycho Brahe Prize Lecture
- SpPt2: Plenary Talk: Merac prize Lecture
- SpPt3: Plenary Talk: Lodewijk Woltjer Prize Lecture
- SpPt4: Plenary Talk on ESA: TBA
- SpPt5: Plenary Talk on ESO: TBA
- SpPt6: Plenary session: EAS General Assembly
- SpPt7: Plenary Talk: Grote Reber Prize Lecture



Altogether, some 650 astronomers from 51 countries were present. ArAS Co-President Areg Mickaelian participated in EWASS from Armenia. He presented 2 talks in different sessions, participated in the EAS meeting with its Affiliated Societies, and in the discussion of the largest European project GAIA, in ASTRONET meeting and had many discussions with representatives of the European organizations.

It is already decided that next EWASS will be held on June 30 – July 4, 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.

More details are available at: <http://www.astro.utu.fi/EWASS2013>

## ARMENIA PARTICIPATED in the IPDA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING



The International Planetary Data Alliance (IPDA) Steering Committee VIII meeting was held on July 16-18, 2013 at Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) in Paris, France. Representatives of IPDA member states and space agencies were present, as well as the representative of Armenia was invited for the first time. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), European Space Agency (ESA), CNES (France), Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI), German DLR, UK Space Agency, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), China National Space Administration, Indian Space

Research Organization and Russian Space Research Institute (IKI) are IPDA members. IPDA deals with the collection and creation of possibilities for efficient use of planetary data, tightly collaborates

with the Committee for Space Research (COSPAR) and International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA).



The ArAS Co-President, Project Manager of the Armenian Virtual Observatory (ArVO) Areg Mickaelian participated in the meeting. He presented a talk on activities of the Armenian astronomers on the impact of the Armenian astronomical databases in the fields of space investigations and use of the planetary data. Taking into account that the digitization project of Markarian survey carried out in the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory offers numerous opportunities for studies of asteroids, that ArVO is one of IVOA active member projects and that recently an Armenian Space Agency “ArmCosmos” has been founded, Armenia was accepted as an IPDA member. Various discussions were also held with the representatives of other space agencies. On the last day of the meeting, there were elections of IPDA administration and *Dr. Alain Sarkissian* was elected as IPDA Chair for the next two years.

#### FOURTH BYURAKAN SUMMER SCHOOL and IAU S304 TRAINING



The **Fourth Byurakan Summer School (4BSS) for Yerevan State University (YSU) students** took place in the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), Armenia on August 19-23, 2013. It was organized jointly by BAO and ArAS and was the 4<sup>th</sup> one in the series of the Byurakan local schools. The School was combined with the **IAU Symposium #304 organizational training for YSU and other university students** who are involved in the LOC supporting team. 12 students were selected for 4BSS from YSU Departments of Physics and Radiophysics and 31 students from YSU Romance and Germanic Philology, International Relations, Journalism and Oriental Studies faculties, from the Yerevan State Linguistic University (YSLU) and from the Armenian Institute of

Tourism (AIT) were selected for the IAU S304 training courses. The participants stayed in the BAO hotel. The students attended astronomical lectures and tutorials, and took IAU 304 training courses. Also observations with small telescopes, astronomical competition and other intellectual games, astronomical film screening, sports games and excursions to famous Armenian sightseeing were organized.



### Topics and Events

- Lectures about V.A. Ambartsumian, BAO and on various aspects of modern astronomy
- Observations with small telescopes
- Practical courses of astronomy with computers and databases
- Astronomical competition
- Training courses: BAO, astronomy in Armenia, IAU Symposia, IAU S304 organizing teams
- Acquaintance with the Byurakan Observatory and its research: 2.6m telescope, V.A. Ambartsumian's office and museum
- Excursions to famous Armenian sightseeing: Amberd fortress and Tegher Monastery
- Sports games, competitions, film screening





Recently an online popular astronomical journal “*Astghagitak*” (“Star expert” in Armenian) was founded by ArAS. “*Astghagitak*” is the first astronomical informational portal in Armenian and it consists of various articles published in popular journals, webpages, thematic interviews etc., so that the reader can easily handle needed astronomical information. It is aimed at amateur astronomers, pupils, students and everybody else interested in astronomy.

The articles are sorted by following topics:

- History of Astronomy
- Astronomical Tools and Observatories
- Astronomy in Armenia
- Armenian Astronomers
- Solar System
- Extrasolar Planets and Astrobiology
- Stars and Nebulae
- Galaxies
- Cosmology and Cosmogony
- Multiwavelength Astronomy
- Extraterrestrial Civilizations
- Cosmonautics
- Cosmic Catastrophes
- Astrology
- Amateur Astronomy
- Astronomical Education

“*Astghagitak*” will be systematically updated and new articles are welcome. It is available at <http://aras.am/Astghagitak/index.html>

## ANNIVERSARIES



**Dr. Tigran MAGAKIAN.** *Dr. Tigran Yu. Magakian, Leading Research Associate and Deputy Director of BAO, Vice-President of ArAS, celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 16.*

*Dr. 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 Ph.D. thesis in 1979 on study of so-called cometary nebulae. In 1989 he became a senior research associate and head of a research group. In 2001 Magakian defended his*

doctoral thesis on the anisotropic activity of pre-main-sequence stars. From 2001 he is a leading research associate and from 2012 the Deputy Director of BAO. For many years he is engaged in the observations on 2.6 m telescope in Byurakan and on 6 m telescope of Special Astrophysical Observatory (Russia), actively using the most modern methods of astronomical spectroscopy.

Tigran Magakian has published about 100 papers in major astronomical journals (A&A, MNRAS, Russian Astron. J, Astrofizika, etc.), which are devoted to study of young stellar objects in our Galaxy. He has published a Merged catalogue of reflection nebulae (A&A, 399, 141, 2003). His 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 the studies of so-called spectral asymmetry in cometary nebulae and discoveries and thorough analysis of many dozens of Herbig-Haro objects should be noted.

*Dr.* Magakian has participated in a number of international astronomy meetings, including JENAMs, IAU Symposia and Colloquia. On his initiative, new international collaborations have been established with French, Japanese, UK and USA astronomers. These projects are currently active in BAO.

As an interesting and unusual hobby of Magakian his participation in various intellectual and erudition games should be mentioned, where he had many achievements and became a laureate of "Crystal Owl", awarded by Armenian and Russian TV channels.

Magakian is a member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU, 1988), European Astronomical Society (EAS, 1991), Euro-Asian Astronomical Society (EAAS, 1996) and ArAS (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. He was awarded many grants.

On behalf of the Armenian Astronomical Society we wish him good health and success and new scientific achievements.