

ArAS News

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

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

VIKTOR AMBARTSUMIAN INTERNATIONAL PRIZE 2014 WINNERS

*Viktor Ambartsumian International Prize Steering Committee
Official Press-Release, 18.07.2014, Yerevan, Armenia*

Viktor Ambartsumian International Prize 2014 goes to
Felix AHARONIAN (Ireland/Germany) and jointly to
Igor KARACHENTSEV (Russia) and **Brent TULLY** (USA)



Viktor Ambartsumian International Prize has been established by the President of Armenia in 2009 and at present is one of the important awards in astronomy/astrophysics and related sciences. It is being awarded to outstanding scientists from any country and nationality having significant contribution in science. The Prize totals USD 500,000 and since 2010 is being awarded once every two years.

The **International Steering Committee (ISC)** consists of 9 outstanding scientists: **Radik Martirosyan** (President of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences, Armenia, Chair), **Gennady Bisnovatyi-Kogan** (Russia), **Catherine Cesarsky** (Past IAU President, France), **Norio Kaifu** (IAU President, Japan), **Michel Mayor** (Switzerland), **Vahe Petrosian** (USA), **Martin Rees** (UK), **Yervant Terzian** (USA), and **Robert Williams** (Past IAU President, USA).

March 18 was the deadline for nominations, and ISC received nominations from national academies of sciences, universities, and observatories for 7 outstanding scientists and teams from different countries. After a thorough study of the nominated works, as well as independent referees' reports, the Committee had several discussions and finally it was decided to share the Prize between

Prof. Felix Aharonian (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, Ireland and Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics, Heidelberg, Germany), nominated by Academia Nazionale Dei Lincei (Italy) for “*outstanding contributions to the field of high energy astrophysics and to the physics of cosmic accelerators, and leading role in the development of the stereoscopic system of Cherenkov telescopes*” and

Prof. Igor Karachentsev (Special Astrophysical Observatory, Russia) and **Prof. Brent Tully** (Institute of Astronomy, University of Hawaii, USA) nominated by the Special Astrophysical Observatory (Russia) for “*their fundamental contribution in the cosmology of the Local Universe*”.

The Prize will be shared between these two nominations, namely *Prof. Aharonian* will receive USD 250,000, *Prof. Karachentsev* and *Prof. Tully* will receive USD 125,000 each.

Previous winners were:

- 2010** **Michel Mayor** (Obs. de Genève, Switzerland), **Garik Israelian** (Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Spain), **Nuno Santos** (Centro de Astrofísica da Universidade do Porto, Portugal)
- 2012** **Jaan Einasto** (Tartu Observatory, Estonia) and **Igor Novikov** (Astro-Space Center, P.N. Lebedev Physics Institute, Russia)

The winners of Viktor Ambartsumian International Prize 2014 were announced at the press-conference held at the Armenian National Academy of Sciences on Saturday, July 18. The official award ceremony will take place on September 18 in Yerevan.



Prof. Felix Aharonian

(Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS), Ireland and Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics (MPIK), Heidelberg, Germany)

Felix Aharonian is a physicist and astrophysicist who currently conducts his research in Dublin, Ireland and in Heidelberg, Germany. He was born on May 23, 1952, in Yerevan, Armenia. He graduated from Moscow Engineering-Physics Institute. After the Ph.D. degree received from the same institute in 1979, he joined Yerevan Physics Institute, where he conducted his research until 1991. In 1987, he received a degree of Doctor of Sciences. In 1991-1992 he was invited to the University of Chicago, USA, as a visiting researcher. In 1992 he moved to Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics (MPIK), Heidelberg, where from 1993 until now he is the Head of High Energy Astrophysics Theory (HEAT) group. Since 2006, after he joined Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS), Prof. Aharonian continues to lead the HEAT group in Heidelberg, with a status of External Scientific Member (elected by the Senate of the Max Planck Society). In Dublin, he is a Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics and Director of the Center for Astroparticle Physics and Astrophysics at DIAS. Prof. Aharonian is a foreign member of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences (2008) and a member of the Royal Irish Academy (2012). He is member of Armenian Astronomical Society and Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory International Science Advisory Committee. The main fields of Prof. Aharonian's research interests are related to Astroparticle Physics, High Energy Astrophysics, Cosmology, and Theoretical Astrophysics. He is a representative of European Space Agency (ESA) in the JAXA-NASA-ESA X-ray mission ASTRO-H, a member of the Executive Board of the H.E.S.S. collaboration, a member of the KM3NeT Consortium Board. He serves as a member of many international panels and committees, in particular he is the Vice-President of the IAU Division D (High Energy Phenomena and Fundamental Physics), a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Astroparticle Physics European Consortium (APPEC), the Chair of the International Advisory Council of the Institute of Sciences of Cosmos, University of Barcelona, Co-Director of the European Associated Laboratory on High Energy Astrophysics, etc. He is an editor of the International Journal of Modern Physics D. Prof. Aharonian has published more than 650 scientific papers and two books: "Very high energy cosmic gamma radiation: a crucial window on the extreme Universe", River Edge, NJ: World Scientific Publishing (2004) and (together with C. Dermer and L. Bergstrom) "Gamma ray astronomy at very high energies", Springer (2013). He has been awarded the Prize of the President of Armenia (2005), EU Decartes prize (as a member of the H.E.S.S. collaboration, 2006), and the Rossi Prize (shared with W. Hofmann and H. Völk, 2010).



Prof. Igor Karachentsev

(Special Astrophysical Observatory (SAO), Russia)

Igor Karachentsev is a Principal Scientist at Special Astrophysical Observatory (SAO), Russia. He was born on Feb 17, 1940, in Kiev, Ukraine. In 1962 he graduated from Astronomy Department, Physical Faculty, Kiev State University and started his career at Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO, 1962-1967). He took his Ph.D. degree in 1967 at BAO on the "Dynamical state of systems of galaxies" (advisor V.A. Ambartsumian) and moved to Kiev State University. Since 1971 Prof.

Karachentsev works at SAO. In 1973-1975 he was the Vice Director of SAO and in 1975-2006, Head of the Extragalactic Research Laboratory. In 1982 he defended his Doctor of Sciences thesis on the “*Dynamics and structure of binary galaxies*”. Prof. Karachentsev has been member of Scientific Organizing Committee of 20 international meetings, member and secretary of the Time Allocation Committee of the 6m telescope (1977-1992) and is member of International Astronomical Union and Editorial Boards of “Astrofizika” and “Astrophysical Bulletin”. The main fields of Prof. Karachentsev’s research are Dwarf galaxies, Local Volume galaxies, Systems of galaxies, Dark Matter, Galaxy interactions, Galaxy redshifts, Large-scale structure and streamings, Observational Cosmology, and Dark Energy. He has published more than 500 scientific papers, as well as the monograph “*Binary galaxies*” (Moscow, 1987). He has supervised 14 Ph.D. theses. He has been awarded Senior Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation (2010), F. Bredikhin prize of the Russian Academy of Sciences (2004) and H. Chretien grant of the American Astronomical Society (1999). In 1997-1999 he had a Fellowship in the program of the President of the Russian Federation for supporting of Russian scientists and in 1991-1996, a Fellowship of the Expert Council “Cosmology and Microphysics” of the Russian Academy of Sciences.



Prof. R. Brent Tully

(Institute of Astronomy (IoA), University of Hawaii, USA)

R. Brent Tully is an astronomer at the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii since 1975. He was born in 1943 in Toronto, Canada and he received his B.Sc. from the University of British Columbia in 1964 and his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1972. He was a postdoctoral researcher at the Observatoire de Marseille in 1972-1975. He has been visiting astronomer at many leading institutions in Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and USA. The main fields of Prof. Tully’s research are extragalactic distance scale, galaxy motions, distribution of dark matter, large scale structure of the universe, luminosity function of galaxies, and dwarf galaxies. He was one of the pioneers of a branch of astronomy so-called Near Field Cosmology related to our understanding of the formation and evolution of galaxies and of the universe itself, with its weblike pattern of filaments of clusters and superclusters separated by vast voids of empty space. In 1977 Prof. Tully and his collaborator J. Richard Fisher discovered a relationship between the mass of galaxies and their luminosities that allow astronomers calculate distances to galaxies, thereby endowing maps of the universe with a third dimension, now well known as Tully-Fisher relation. In 1988, Prof. Tully published The Nearby Galaxies Catalog, along with the Nearby Galaxies Atlas, the first major attempt to illustrate the 3D distribution of galaxies. Using 3D locations approximated from redshifts and a simple model, he mapped 2400 nearby galaxies. He has also published catalogs of directly measured distances, including distances for over 8,000 galaxies, which is the largest assembly of distance currently available (2013). He has published more than 350 scientific papers. He is an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He has received a distinguished alumnus award from the University of Maryland and the University of Hawaii Regents Medal for Outstanding Research. He is the winner of Wempe Award from the Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics (Potsdam, Germany, 2014) and awarded Gruber Cosmology Prize (2014, shared with Jaan Einasto, Kenneth Freeman, and Sidney van den Bergh). Prof. Tully is also known for his outreach activities, such as producing and advising documentary films, popular astronomical software, etc.

*Areg Mickaelian, Sona Farmanyan
Viktor Ambartsumian International Prize Steering Committee*

FIRST ICRANet SCIENTIFIC MEETING in ARMENIA



In frame **International Centre for Relativistic Astrophysics Network in Armenia (ICRANet)**, a summer school and international scientific conference dedicated to the issues of Relativistic Astrophysics were held in Armenia from June 28 to July 4. During the summer school (on June 28 and 29) in the guest house of the National Academy of Sciences of RA (NAS RA) were organized discussions among young scientists and PhD students. Then, from June 30 to July 4 the National Academy of Sciences of RA hosted the First Scientific ICRANet Meeting in Armenia: *Black Holes: the largest energy sources in the Universe*. More than 80 scientists from Italy, Germany, France, Brazil, Korea, Iran and Armenia participated in the conference.



The conference opening ceremony was attended by the President of NAS RA, academician Radik Martirosyan, Academician-Secretary of the Division of Physics and Astrophysics of NAS RA Yuri Chilingaryan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of RA G. Nazarian, the Ambassador of Italy to the Republic of Armenia G. Ricciulli, the Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Armenia E. M. D. Monteiro, the Ambassador of Vatican to RA Monsignor Marek Sozinski. Welcoming the guests, R. Martirosyan said that the organization of such a conference in Yerevan shows that research in the field of astrophysics in the Republic corresponds to the international level and wished success to the conference participants. Then, the director of ICRANet *Prof. R. Ruffini* briefly presented the conference scientific program and the participants, he also presented ICRANet centers in Italy, France, Brazil, as well as in Armenia.

After the official ceremony the conference started, which included reports about gamma-ray bursts, active galactic nuclei, neutron stars, supernovae, gravitation waves and etc. There were presented

the latest data obtained from a series of experiments, such as MAGIC, HESS, Fermi LAT, NuStar etc. Recently obtained results of theoretical studies of modern problems in Relativistic Astrophysics field were also presented.

During the conference delegation consisting of participants met with the President of NAS RA Radik Martirosyan and the Vice-President of NAS RA Yuri Shoukourian and they discussed activities and perspectives of development of ICRANet Yerevan Center.

Then director of ICRANet Remo Ruffini, director of the Naples Observatory Massimo Della Valle and the head of ICRANet Armenian branch Narek Sahakyan met with the President of the National Assembly of RA Galust Sahakyan. Welcoming the guests the NA President highlighted the role of science in the development of our country, considering Armenia's membership to the ICRANet jointly with Italy, Brazil and Vatican an honor. Emphasizing the conduct of the conference in Yerevan, G. Sahakyan has noted that the organization of researches and studies in the sphere of astrophysics in Armenia is based on deep scientific traditions and potential and it was greatly contributed by V. Ambartsumian and his school. He highly assessed the role of the ICRANet Regional Center, which can be of major importance for using the Armenian scientists' potential, supporting researches and implementing educational programs.

The director of Inter-Church Relations of Mother See, Artic Diocese Leader Bishop T. Hovakim Manukyan greeted the conference delegation in the Mother See and conveyed blessing of His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. During the meeting Bishop Hovakim gave importance to the organization of such conferences. During the meeting the historical path of Armenian Church was introduced to the guests, particularly educational and social modern activities, as well as close cooperation and achievements in the field of Inter-Church relations.

Interesting results which were obtained during the conference will be published in the Conference Proceedings. Due to the high level of the conference organization and warm atmosphere of Armenia, it was decided to organize similar conferences in the future again.

8th INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD on ASTRONOMY and ASTROPHYSICS



The 8th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) was held on 1-10 August 2014, in Suceava, Romania. IOAA is an annual astronomy competition for high school students. It is one of the international science Olympiads. The Olympiad was founded from dissidence inside the International Astronomy Olympiad, in order to increase the scope of the organization. The first IOAA was held in Thailand in 2007, followed annually by events in Indonesia, Iran, China, Poland, Brazil and Greece. In 2014 the host country was Romania and then follows Indonesia during 2015. The table gives all IOAA by years, countries, host cities and absolute winners.

Number	Year	Host country	Host city	Absolute winner
1	2007	 Thailand	Chiang Mai	 THA Suwun Suwunnarat
2	2008	 Indonesia	Bandung	 IND Nitin Jain
3	2009	 Iran	Tehran	 IND Nitin Jain
4	2010	 China	Beijing	 POL Przemyslaw Mróz
5	2011	 Poland	Chorzów / Katowice / Krakow	 CZE Stanislav Fort
6	2012	 Brazil	Rio de Janeiro / Vassouras	 LTU Motiejus Valiūnas
7	2013	 Greece	Volos	 ROM Denis Turcu
8	2014	 Romania	Suceava	 ROM Denis Turcu
9	2015	 Indonesia	Semarang	TBD
10	2016	 Pakistan/  Thailand/  Iran/  Bolivia	TBD	
11	2017	 India	Mumbai / Pune / Aurangabad	TBD
12	2018	 Sri Lanka	TBD	TBD
13	2019	 Hungary	TBD	TBD
14	2020	 Colombia	TBD	TBD
15	2021	 Iran	TBD	TBD
15	2022	 Serbia	TBD	TBD



In IOAA participant faces four exams:

1. **Theoretical Exam:** consisting on 15 short questions and 2 or 3 long questions, with 5 hours to solve. It counts as 50% of the mark.
2. **Data Analysis Exam:** a paper- or computer-based task for analysing actual data obtained from professional astronomers, with usually 4 hours to solve. It counts as 25% of the mark.

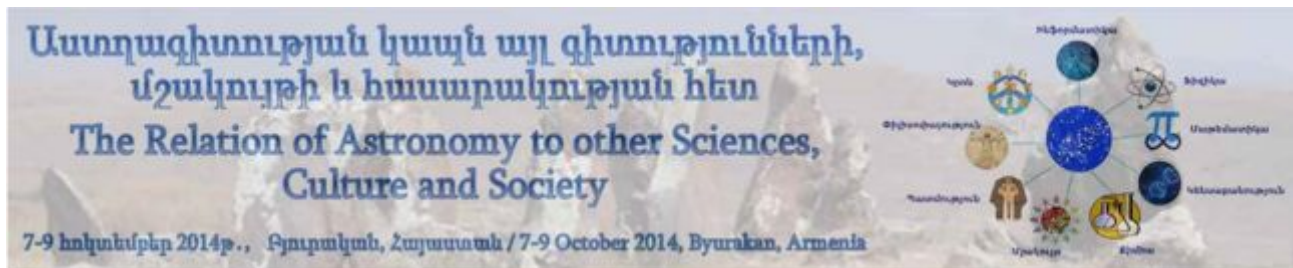
3. **Observational Exam:** questions concerning direct observation of the sky (in the real sky or in a planetarium), recognizing stars, constellations, nebulae, great circles, etc. It counts as 25% of the mark.
4. **Team Competition:** A separated competition, in which national teams are set to do a huge task, involving both individual and group efforts, with theoretical and/or practical reasoning.

The criteria for prize nominations at IOAA is as follows: the average of the three biggest marks makes 100%. Gold medals are between 100 and 90%, silver medals are between 90 and 78%, bronze medals are between 78 and 65% and honor mentions are between 65 and 50%.

There were 218 participants representing 45 teams from 39 countries. This year 5 Armenian students took part in the IOAA. Two of them became owners of Silver medals; they are **Arsen Vasilyan** (HPTchH) and **Gevorg Martirosyan** (Phys.-Math. School), two got Bronze medals: **Edgar Vardanyan** (Phys.-Math. School) and **Vardges Mambreyan** (Phys.-Math. School), and **Hrant Topchyan** (Phys.-Math. School) got honour mention. The team leaders were **Marietta Gyulzadyan** (BAO researcher and Phys-Math School teacher) and **Emilia Karapetyan** (YSU lecturer).



MEETING “RELATION of ASTRONOMY to other SCIENCES, CULTURE and SOCIETY”



First Announcement

“*Relation of Astronomy to other Sciences, Culture and Society*” meeting is devoted to the role of astronomy in science, culture and other fields of human activity and development of these fields due to the knowledge obtained from the Universe. In modern era, astronomy is probably the field of science, which plays a leading role in the formation and development of interdisciplinary sciences. For a long time the astrophysics has reached high level of development, recently new science disciplines have been created, such as astrochemistry, astrobiology, astroinformatics, astrolinguistics, archaeoastronomy plays important role in culture and in the heritage of nations, chronologies and calendars created on the basis of astronomical knowledge, etc. Astronomy also plays an important role in the development of scientific tourism and scientific journalism.

The meeting is aimed at the development of problems of interdisciplinary sciences in Armenia and preparation of a basis for further possible collaborations by means of presentations of available modern knowledge in various areas by experts from different professions and by joint discussions.

Topics

- Astronomical heritage of Armenian
- Ancient astronomy
- Astronomy in the Middle Ages
- Astronomy in ancient cultures
- Ethnoastronomy
- Astronomical bases of Philosophy
- Religion and Astronomy
- The problem of Extraterrestrial Intelligence
- Solar activity and global warming
- Astronomy and Astrology
- Practical use of Astronomy
- Astroinformatics and Astrostatistics
- Astronomy and Space Flights
- Astronomy in Folklore and Poetry
- Astronomy in Arts
- Astronomy in Fashion
- Astrolinguistics

- Astroheraldry
- Scientific Tourism
- Scientific Journalism
- Amateur Astronomy
- Astronomical Education
- Popular Astronomy

Organizers and sponsors

Organizers

National Academy of Sciences RA (NAS RA)
 NAS RA Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO)
 Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS)
 RA Ministry of Education and Science
 RA State Committee for Science (SCS)
 RA Ministry of Culture
 Yerevan State University (YSU)
 “Matenadaran” Institute of ancient manuscripts after Mesrop Mashtots

Sponsors

National Academy of Sciences RA (NAS RA)
 NAS RA Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO)
 Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS)
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Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC)

Radik Martirosyan (NAS RA) – Chair
 Armen Ashotyan (RA Ministry of Education and Science)
 Yuri Chilingaryan (NAS RA)
 Haik Harutyunian (BAO, ArAS)
 Samvel Harutyunyan (SCS)
 Areg Mickaelian (BAO, ArAS)
 Elena Nikoghosyan (BAO, ArAS)
 Elma Parsamian (BAO, ArAS)
 Hasmik Poghosyan (RA Ministry of Culture)
 Aram Simonyan (YSU)
 Yuri Suvaryan (NAS RA)
 Hrachya Tamrazyan (Matenadaran)

Registration

To register please complete the online [registration form](#), including title and abstract of the presented talk/poster and submit to the meeting organizers (Areg Mickaelian aregmick@yahoo.am, Sona Farmanyanyan sona.farmanyan@mail.ru):

Proceedings of meeting

The Proceedings of the meeting will be published as an individual book by NAS RA publishing house. The deadline for submission of papers is November 30, 2014. Haik Harutyunian and Areg Mickaelian are the editors.

Number of allocated pages:

Invited talks	10 pages
Contributed talks	6 pages
Posters	2 pages

Details will be given during the meeting.

Dates and deadlines

02.08.2014	Meeting webpage and First Announcement
07.09.2014	Deadline for registration and submission of contributions
14.09.2014	Notification of authors on the acceptance of contributions
19.09.2014	Meeting program available
07-09.10.2014	Meeting “ <i>Relation of Astronomy to other Sciences, Culture and Society</i> ”
30.11.2014	Deadline for submission of papers for the Proceedings

Contacts

Official webpage: <http://www.aras.am/Meetings/RASCS/index.html>

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ANSEF 2015 GRANTS CALL



A.N.S.E.F.

The Armenian National Science & Education Fund



The Armenian National Science & Education Fund invites grant applications for the 2015 competition. Applicants are to submit their applications through the ANSEF website portal, accessed from the top bar of the ANSEF website (www.ansef.org) or directly through the link ansef.herokuapp.com. The deadline for submissions is **August 31, 2014**. Competition results will be announced by **January 1, 2015**. For further questions, contact help@ansef.org.

If you have applied for an ANSEF grant in the past through our portal, you may use your old account to submit new applications. If you have forgotten your password, the portal allows you to reset it and log in with a new password. This allows you to access all your past information in your new proposals. Watch the video tutorials on the portal's login page for more instructions.

If you are a new applicant who has not used the ANSEF portal before, you need to use the portal to first register. You will then receive an email to confirm your new account, and then proceed with logging in. For any technical questions about ANSEF portal, please contact website@ansef.org.

In the field of **astronomy and astrophysics**, during 2001-2014 ANSEF has supported 38 projects (USD 5000 each; projects by 21 Principal Investigators involving more than 70 scientists), including 32 projects from BAO and 6 from YSU.

Previous winners:

- 2001** Khachikian E.Ye. (BAO), Mickaelian A.M. (BAO), Saharian A.A. (YSU)
- 2002** Hovhannisyan M.A. (BAO), Magakian T.Yu. (BAO), Mickaelian A.M. (BAO), Shahabasyan K.M. (YSU)
- 2003** Movsessian T.H. (BAO), Vardanyan Yu.L. (YSU), Zalinian V.P. (BAO)
- 2004** Andreasyan R.R. (BAO), Hakopian S.A. (BAO), Ter-Kazarian G.T. (BAO)
- 2005** Andreasyan R.R. (BAO), Saharian A.A. (YSU), Sedrakyan D.M. (YSU)
- 2006** Mahtesyan A.P. (BAO), Nikoghosyan, E.H. (BAO), Ter-Kazarian G.T. (BAO)
- 2007** Balayan S.K. (BAO), Mickaelian A.M. (BAO)
- 2008** Nikoghosyan E.H. (BAO), Sadoyan A.A. (YSU)
- 2009** Ohanian G.A. (BAO)
- 2010** Hakobyan A.A. (BAO), Mahtesyan A.P. (BAO)
- 2011** Andreasyan R.R. (BAO), Hakobyan A.A. (BAO), Magakian T.Yu. (BAO), Sargsyan L.A. (BAO)
- 2012** Mickaelian A.M. (BAO), Movsessian T.H. (BAO), Yeghikyan A.G. (BAO)
- 2013** Balayan S.K. (BAO), Hakobyan A.A. (BAO), Movsessian T.H. (BAO)
- 2014** Hakobyan A.A. (BAO), Mickaelian A.M. (BAO)

ArAS PRIZE for YOUNG ASTRONOMERS (YERVANT TERZIAN PRIZE) 2014



ArAS is pleased to announce the **ArAS Annual Prize for Young Astronomers (Yervant Terzian Prize) 2014**. The prize will be awarded to a young scientist under 35 working in astronomy or related field and showing significant results in research and/or other scientific activities connected anyhow with the Armenian astronomy. **Nominations** may be made by ArAS members or any research organization from Armenia or elsewhere and should be sent to one of the ArAS Co-Presidents (Haik Harutyunian, Areg Mickaelian or Yervant Terzian).

Nominations should include personal data of the nominee (first name, surname, affiliation, position, education, degree, birthdate, e-mail address, personal homepage if available) and a brief description of his/her achievements during the year (2014) including:

- scientific results (up to 1 page),
- letter from the supervisor describing the personal contribution of the nominee,
- published, accepted and submitted papers (in refereed journals, in proceedings of meetings, and other),
- participation in meetings and schools,
- given talks, seminars, and presented posters,
- scientific missions,
- honours, awards and research grants,
- membership,
- teaching activity,
- organizational activity,
- other activities, whatever is considered to be important.

At least one refereed publication is required to qualify for the Prize. Preference will be given to nominees having publications in journals with higher impact factors (IF), with less co-authors and papers with the nominee as the first co-author, as well as the own contribution stated by the supervisor will be rather important. Nominations will be discussed and the winner(s) will be named by the ArAS Council (Haik Harutyunian, Tigran Magakian, Areg Mickaelian, Elena Nikoghosyan and Yervant Terzian).

The **deadline** for applications is **December 1**. The winner will be announced in the last issue of ArAS Newsletter (#76) at the end of the year. A **diploma** and sum of **\$500** will be awarded to the winner. The Prize was established in 2004 and is being sponsored by ArAS Co-President **Prof. Yervant Terzian** (Cornell University, USA). Since 2009 the Prize is named after Yervant Terzian.

Previous ArAS Annual Prize (Yervant Terzian Prize) Winners

- 2013** Hayk ABRAHAMYAN (BAO) and Avet HARUTYUNYAN (IAC, Spain)
- 2012** Vardan ADIBEKYAN (CAUP, Portugal)
- 2011** Marine AVTANDILYAN (ASPU)
- 2010** Parandzem SINAMYAN (BAO)
- 2009** Lusine SARGSYAN (BAO)

- 2008** Vardan ADIBEKYAN (YSU) and Artur HAKOBYAN (BAO)
2007 Igor CHILINGARIAN (OBSPM, France)
2006 Lilit HOVHANNISYAN (BAO) and Parandzem SINAMYAN (BAO)
2005 Artak HARUTYUNYAN (BAO) and Elena HOVHANNESSIAN (BAO)
2004 Lusine SARGSYAN (BAO)

ANNIVERSARIES



Vahram Chavushyan – 50. *Dr. Vahram Chavushyan is one of the most efficient foreign Armenian astronomers. Vahram Hovsep Chavushyan was born on July 2, 1964, in Yerevan, Armenia in the family of an astronomer. His father, Hovsep S. Chavushyan, was one of the famous scientists of Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO). In 1986 he graduated from Yerevan State University (YSU) and started his career at BAO and worked there until 1991. In 1989-1991 he was the head of 1m Byurakan Schmidt telescope laboratory. In 1991 he moved to Special Astrophysical*

*Observatory (SAO), Russia. He took his Ph.D. at SAO in 1995 (advisor` Jivan Stepanyan). In 1996-1997 he was Senior Researcher at SAO and in 1995-1997, he was the responsible astronomer for SAO RAS 60 cm telescope modernization and automatization group. In 1996-1997 he was invited to Instituto Nacional de Astrofisica, Optica y Electronica (INAOE, Puebla, Mexico), as a visiting researcher. In 1998 he moved to INAOE, and till now works there, at the department of Astrophysics, as a “C” (highest) ranked researcher. As a visiting astronomer he worked at Hamburger Sternwarte (Germany) and Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie (Germany). The main fields of Chavushyan’s research interests are related to wide-field surveys (AGN, galaxies, CV, white dwarfs and hot subdwarfs), AGN and quasars (central engine and environment), compact groups of galaxies, supernovae and observational astronomy. The main area of study is the multiwavelength observations and interpretation of the processes going on around supermassive black holes (SMBH): the nature of the power source in AGN; the cosmological evolution of SMBH and their host galaxies, and relationships with environment in small and large scales. One of his long-term interests has been variability of the radiation from AGN to probe what is going on around the supermassive BH (structure and kinematics of the broad/narrow-line emission regions) and power generation. As a result Chavushyan has published more than 200 articles, most of the articles are published at refereed scientific journals, including the major international astrophysics journals. For long years, he has actively collaborated with the scientists from the USA, France, Germany, China, Armenia and other countries. He is a member of many astronomical boards and committees in Mexico. From 2011, he is a member of the Editorial Board of *International Journal of Astronomy and Astrophysics*. He gave lectures in a number of Mexican Universities and Institutes; he has supervised many B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses. He is a member of European Astronomical Society (EAS, from 1992), Euro-Asian Astronomical Society (from 1996), Sistema Nacional de Investigadores Nivel I, México (1999-2004), Armenian Astronomical Society (from 2002), Sistema Nacional de Investigadores Nivel II, México (from 2005), International Astronomical Union (IAU, from 2006), Mexican Academy of Sciences (AMC, from 2010).*