

IAU Commission E2 (Solar Activity)

2021 Annual Report (August – December)

Commission Officers

- President: Manolis K. Georgoulis, Greece
- Vice President: R. T. James McAteer, USA
- Advisor: Paul L. Cally, Australia

Organizing Committee

- Ayumi Asai, Japan
- S. Shaun Bloomfield, UK
- Rebecca Centeno, USA
- Shravan M. Hanasoge, India
- Hui Li, China
- Hannah J. Schunker, Australia

Main Actions

- A1: Establishment of the Commission's presiding Board and set up for future actions
- A2: Familiarization with IAU rules on Commission governance, terms of reference, IAU archives and web pages, and OC engagement on common duties
- A3: Evaluation by the Commission of four (4) relevant Symposia proposed for 2023 and provision of comments and suggestions to Division E
- A4: Collective evaluation of ten (10) relevant nominations for the IAU 2021 PhD Prize
- A5: Discussion at Division level of comments and concerns on the 2022 IAU General Assembly

Brief information on some of the Main Actions

- A3: Given the short timeframe, evaluation of 2023 Symposia was performed by the President alone, who then advised the Division Chair and OC on each merits, strengths and weaknesses.
- A4: A point system was established by the President for the entire organizing committee to provide a ranking on equal footing. The President's ranking was given equal weight with the rankings of all other Officers and Organizing Committee members. The collective ranking was provided to the Division Chair in due time.
- A5: Given the postponement of the XXXI IAU General Assembly to August 2022, the President consulted with and advised the Division Chair on the level of physical vs. virtual participation due to the ongoing situation of the Covid-19 pandemic and the emerging participation and engagement of the international community to in-person meetings after at least two full years of isolation and remote / virtual interaction.

Outlook for 2022

- We look forward to lessons learned from the XXXI IAU General Assembly, as this will shape future Assemblies in instituting – or abolishing altogether – a virtual / hybrid element.
- The recent tragic developments in Eastern Europe set the stage for an in-depth assessment and re-evaluation of the level of international scientific collaboration in Astronomy and Astrophysics, encompassing basic science and experiment management on the ground and space. We have already witnessed with grave concern a profound impact on a number of collaborative projects and we feel we must safeguard the quality of research and experimentation, keeping it as immune as feasible from geopolitical impediments. The Commission is standing by to actively participate in discussions with the Division and the Union as a whole in efficiently responding to the new challenges and a rapidly evolving international situation.