

## **DIVISION VIII**

## **GALAXIES AND THE UNIVERSE**

### *LES GALAXIES ET L'UNIVERSE*

Division VIII gathers astronomers engaged in the study of the visible and invisible matter in the Universe at large, from Local Group galaxies via distant galaxies and galaxy clusters to the large-scale structure of the Universe and the cosmic background radiation.

#### **PRESIDENT**

**Francesco Bertola**

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

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### **DIVISION VIII COMMISSIONS**

**Commission 28**

**Galaxies**

**Commission 47**

**Cosmology**

### **DIVISION VIII WORKING GROUP**

**Division VIII WG**

**Supernovae**

## **PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS MEETING on 18 August 2006**

### **1. Report of Business Meeting**

#### *1.1. Attendance*

F. Bertola, E. dalla Bonta, F. Combes, E. M. Corsini, F. Firneis, J. Funes, R. de Grijs, R. W. Hunstead, A. Koekemoer, P. C. van der Kruit, V. J. Martínez, R. H. Miller, S. Okamura, J.-C. Pecker, E. Sadler, S. Simkin, R. L. Webster, H. van Woerden, and P. T. de Zeeuw. This was the joint meeting of Division VIII and its two Commissions, 28 and 47.

#### *1.2. Division VIII officers, triennium 2006-2009*

The Division VIII Board includes the president, vice-president and past president, and the presidents and vice presidents of the two Commissions. These appointments were approved at the meeting. Dr. Mark Birkinshaw has been asked to act as webmaster. The new Board of Division VIII is as follows: Sadanori Okamura (president), Elaine Sadler (vice-president), Francesco Bertola (past president), Françoise Combes (president Commission 28), Roger Davies (vice-president Commission 28), Thanu Padmanabhan (vice-president Commission 47), Rachel Webster (president Commission 47), and Mark Birkinshaw (Division webmaster).

### **2. Scientific meetings**

The main activities of the Division have been concerned with the review of proposals for IAU Symposia and Colloquia. There are always more proposals from these active research fields than can be accommodated. During the last triennium, 12 out of the 26 IAU Symposia and Colloquia were dealing with subjects of interest to Division VIII:

**2004**

- IAU Symposium No. 222, *The Interplay Among Black Holes, Stars and ISM in Galactic Nuclei*, Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, 1-4 March 2004
- IAU Colloquium No. 195, *Outskirts of Galaxy Clusters: Intense Life in the Suburbs*, Torino, Italy, 12-16 March 2004
- IAU Symposium No. 225, *Impact of Gravitational Lensing on Cosmology*, Lausanne, Switzerland, 19-23 July 2004

**2005**

- IAU Colloquium No. 199, *Probing Galaxies through Quasar Absorption Lines*, Shanghai, China PR, 14-18 March 2005
- IAU Colloquium No. 198, *Near-Field Cosmology with Dwarf Elliptical Galaxies*, Les Diablerets, Switzerland, 14-18 March 2005
- IAU Symposium No. 228, *From Lithium to Uranium: Elemental Tracers of Early Cosmic Evolution*, Paris, France, 23-27 May 2005
- IAU Symposium No. 230, *Populations of High-Energy Sources in Galaxies*, Dublin, Ireland, 15-19 August 2005
- IAU Symposium No. 231, *Astrochemistry throughout the Universe: Recent Successes and Current Challenges*, Monterey, CA, USA, 29 August - 2 September 2005

**2006**

- IAU Symposium No. 234, *Planetary Nebulae in our Galaxy and Beyond*, Waikoloa Beach, HI, USA, 3-7 April 2006
- IAU Symposium No. 235, *Galaxy Evolution across the Hubble Time* Prague, Czech Republic, 14-17 August 2006
- IAU Symposium No. 238, *Black Holes: from Stars to Galaxies - across the Range of Masses*, Prague, Czech Republic, 21-25 August 2006
- IAU Symposium No. 241, *Stellar Populations as Building Blocks of Galaxies*, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain, 10-14 December 2006

There are many conferences on topics covered by Division VIII that are not directly supported or sponsored by the IAU. These also ensure effective discussion within the research community.

One of the main tasks of the Division presidents is to judge all proposals for Symposia. The Union gives only access to the presidents for the proposals, and this will probably continue in this way. An effort has been made within Division VIII to share this information with the OC of the Division.

**3. Discussion**

There is some discussion about the increasing interaction between cosmology and physics. Developments in cosmology continue to attract the attention of physicists, especially as new experimental techniques are developed, such as gravitational wave detection and  $\gamma$ -ray telescopes. Many of these people are not IAU members, and therefore the role of the Division should be to foster the interaction.

At the end of the meeting the president thanked all Board members for the pleasant and productive collaboration over the past triennium, and welcomed his successor and the new members of the Board. In turn, the newly elected president of the Division VIII, Sadanori Okamura, addressed some words to the participants. He stressed that the Division and both Commissions can run very well, he also thanked all the past Board members and the past Division president, Francesco Bertola, for their productive activity and expressed the wish in a fruitful work of the new members of the Board.

Francesco Bertola  
*president of the Division*