

COMMISSION 36

THEORY OF STELLAR ATMOSPHERES

(*THEORY OF STELLAR
ATMOSPHERES*)

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PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS SESSION, August 7, 2009

The members of the Commission 36 Organizing Committee attending the IAU General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro met for a business session on August 7. Both members from the previous (2006–2009) and the new (2009–2012) Organizing Committee partook in the discussions. Past president John Landstreet described the work he had done over the past three years in terms of supporting proposed conferences on the topic. He has also spent significant amount of time establishing an updated mailing list of all > 350 members of the commission, which is unfortunately not provided automatically by the IAU. Such a list is critical for a rapid dissemination of information to the commission members and for a correct and smooth running of elections of IAU officials. Everyone present thanked John effusively for all of his hard work over the past three years to stimulate a high level of activity within the discipline.

Most of the discussion at the business meeting centered around the organization of conferences of interest for the commission members. At the 2009 General Assembly a large number of meetings were highly relevant for the field of stellar atmospheres. In particular the two-day Joint Discussion 10 *3D Views on Cool Stellar Atmospheres – Theory Meets Observation* organized by Hans Ludwig was entirely devoted to this topic and was a great success. In addition, several other symposia and joint discussions featured a large number of invited reviews and contributed talks related to stellar atmospheres, including JD4 *Progress in Understanding the Physics of Ap and Related Stars*, JD11 *New Advances in Helio- and Astero-Seismology*, Special Session 7 *Young Stars, Brown Dwarfs, and Protoplanetary Disks* and of course Symposium 265 *Chemical Abundances in the Universe – Connecting First Stars to Planets*. In addition, the scientific part of the business meeting of Division IV Stars on August 7 was devoted entirely to the solar chemical composition and the discrepancy with helioseismology; Marc Pinnsonneault, Hans Ludwig and Martin Asplund gave interesting talks describing their take on this

hotly debated topic. In all respects, the work of the commission was very well represented at this General Assembly, which demonstrates that the field is still blooming and highly relevant for the broader field of astronomy.

The business meeting ended with a discussion about future meetings. Everyone agreed that we should plan for at least one larger meeting each triennia as more or less in the past. We should also try to ensure that the topic of stellar atmospheres are covered in other conferences, which should not be so difficult given that it plays a key role also in other areas such as exo-planet searches, Galactic and cosmic chemical evolution and stellar parameter estimations. One possibility is to organize a conference on modelling stellar and planetary atmospheres in Munich in 2011.

Martin Asplund
President of the Commission