

DIVISION IV-V / WG ACTIVE B-TYPE STARS

CHAIR

Stanley P. Owocki

PAST CHAIR

Stanislav Štefl

MEMBERS

Conny Aerts, Beatriz Barbuy, Juan Fabregat,
Douglas R. Gies, Edward F. Guinan,
Hubertus F. Henrichs, Geraldine J. Peters,
John M. Porter († 2005), Thomas Rivinius,
Stanislav Štefl

PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS MEETING on 18 August 2006

1. Introduction

The meeting of the Working Group on Active B-type Stars consisted of a business meeting followed by a scientific meeting containing invited and contributed talks. The titles of the talks and their presenters are listed below. We plan to publish a series of articles containing summaries of these talks in Issue No. 39 of the *Be Star Newsletter*.

Outgoing chair of the Working Group, Stan Owocki, welcomed the attendees. He presented a brief update on the status of the proceedings from the meeting *Active OB-Stars: Laboratories for Stellar and Circumstellar Physics* held in Sapporo, Japan, 29 August to 2 September 2005. The editors of the proceedings are S. Štefl, S. Owocki and A. Okazaki. A proposal to continue IAU recognition of the Working Group during the 2006-09 triennium was submitted by Stan Owocki by the Spring deadline.

2. Business Meeting

2.1. *Be Star Newsletter*

The *Be Star Newsletter*, which is published in hard copy at Georgia State University for the Working Group on Active B-type Stars, continues to be the main source of information on new discoveries, ideas, manuscripts, and meetings on active B-type stars. G. Peters, D. Gies, and D. McDavid continue, respectively, as Editor-in-Chief, Technical Editor, and Webmaster. Abstracts and announcements are usually posted on our website (<<http://www.astro.virginia.edu/~dam3ma/benews/>>) within 48 hrs of being received.

Articles submitted for publication have been refereed since the year 2000. Although this practice has resulted in fewer full articles, the quality of the published material has been vastly improved. In 2005 we introduced a new section called Community Comments, in which Working Group members can voice opinions or ideas on which the community can submit rebuttal. In March 2005 we published Issue No. 37 that contains the proceedings from the scientific session held during the business meeting of the Working Group on Active B-type Stars at the IAU XXV General Assembly in Sydney, Australia, 2003.

2.2. *OC election results*

In August 2006 an election was held by e-mail ballots that were sent to all current IAU members of the Working Group on Active B-type Stars. The Organizing Committee (OC) for the 2006-09 triennium is:

Term expiring in 2009: Juan Fabregat, Douglas Gies, Huib Henrichs, and David McDavid.

Term expiring in 2012: Karen Bjorkman, Coralie Neiner, Geraldine Peters, and Philippe Stee.

Non-voting: president IAU Division IV (*Stars*), president IAU Division V (*Variable Stars*), and Stan Owocki(outgoing WG chair).

2.3. Action items

2.3.1. Bye-laws for the Working Group

The bye-laws would include a mission statement and rules governing the election of the OC. Suggestions were made that non-IAU members should be allowed to vote in elections if they have participated in at least one meeting on active B-type stars within a six year period, and that a non-Ph.D. researcher might be recognized as voting member if his/her National Committees agrees.

2.3.2. Other items

There was a discussion on how to stimulate more participation from Working Group members. In 2006 there was a slight increase in the voter turnout of 25% of the eligible voters compared with 15% in 2003. The number of articles submitted to the Be Star Newsletter has declined, but submissions of abstracts and news items have increased.

2.4. Rules governing the election of the OC in 2006

The top priority of the OC during the 2006-09 triennium will be to establish a set of bye-laws including a set of formal rules governing the election of the Organizing Committee. The following rules were followed for the 2006 election:

1. The Working Group (WG) is considered to consist of all subscribers of the Be Star Newsletter, Electronic Edition, who are IAU members.

2. Every member of the WG can nominate four persons as candidates for the new Organizing Committee (OC) and send them to the Election Officer (chosen from the editors of the Be Star Newsletter.) The Election Officer selects the 10 candidates with the highest number of votes. If several individuals have the same number of nominations for the last spot on the ballot, they are all accepted and the number of candidates can be higher than ten. According to the general IAU rules, only IAU members, or new members pending approval at the current General Assembly, can be accepted as candidates for OC membership, and balanced regional representation should be taken into account in the nomination of the candidates.

3. The Election Officer must verify that all nominees to be listed as candidates on the ballot are willing to serve if elected.

4. The four new OC members are elected from the OC candidates by the members of the WG, who may vote for up to four different persons.

5. The four persons with the largest numbers of valid votes are elected for a six-year term. The four new and the four continuing OC members determine among themselves the new Chairperson.

3. Scientific session

Session 1 (D. McDavid, chair)

09:20 *Observations of the B[e] Star MWC 349 with mid-infrared interferometry*
A. Quirrenbach

09:35 *The Kepler mission's guest opportunity program: opportunity for optical monitoring of B-type stars?*
M. Smith

10:00 *Rotational velocities of Be-type stars*
I. Howarth

10:15 *Analysis of the high temperature region in B-type stars*
A. Torres

Session 2 (G. Peters, chair)

11:00 *Statistical Properties of a Sample of Periodically Variable B-Type Supergiants: Evidence of a Pulsation-Mass Loss Connection?*
K. Lefever, J. Puls, C. Aerts*

11:15 *The Comings and Goings of Be Stars*
V. McSwain

- 11:30 *HD 61273: a new binary system with a hot component showing an H α emission line*
D. Briot*, F. Royer
- 11:45 *Spectropolarimetry of Be stars with FORS1 at the VLT revisited*
R. Yudin
- 12:00 *Circumstellar disks from rotating stars with and without magnetic fields*
S. Owocki*, A. ud-Doula, R. Townsend

* Presenter

4. Closing remarks

I would like to thank those who participated in the Working Group business meeting through their attendance and the presentation of a set of very interesting talks. Hearty thanks are due to outgoing OC chair Stan Owocki, who skillfully led our Working Group for the past three years and was one of the primary organizers of the meeting on active B-type stars in Sapporo, Japan in 2005.

We are looking forward to seeing you again in 2009 at the meeting of the Working Group on Active B-type Stars at the IAU XXVII General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro.

Geraldine J. Peters
incoming co-chair of the Working Group