

IUPAP C19 Astrophysics Activity report 2012.01 – 2012.10

1) IUPAP Young Scientist Medals in the field of Astrophysics

Call for nominations for the IUPAP Young Scientist Medals in the field of Astrophysics of 2011 and 2012 was announced in April of 2012. Applications of five outstanding astrophysicists have been received by the 1st of July. A committee of five members was appointed which reviewed the applications and selected the winners.

The IUPAP Young Scientist Medal in the field of Astrophysics of 2011 will be awarded to Daisuke Nagai (Yale University) for ground-breaking research that has significantly improved our understanding of the structure and evolution of galaxy clusters and their application for cosmology, through the use of novel computer simulations and the development of techniques that control systematic uncertainties due to non-linear astrophysical processes.

The IUPAP Young Scientist Medal in the field of Astrophysics of 2011 will be awarded to Alexander J. van der Horst (Astronomical Institute 'Anton Pannekoek', University of Amsterdam) for the insightful and very diverse work in elucidating the nature of and high-energy emission processes in gamma-ray bursts and soft gamma repeaters; especially for his skilful analysis of data from very different space- and ground-based instruments and the furthering of our theoretical understanding of those data in terms of physics of the sources.

The winners will present their work at the 26th Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics (December 16–20, 2012 in Sao Paolo, Brazil), where the IUPAP Medals will be awarded to them.

2) IUPAP support of international conferences

For the IUPAP support has been selected the 27th Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics to be held in Dallas, Texas on 9–12 December, 2013.

3) Associate members of C19

Two associate members of C19 have been nominated: Maria Victoria Fonseca (Spain) and Virginia Trimble (USA).

4) Meetings of C19

A face-to-face meeting of C19 members has been organized in Beijing on August 22nd of 2012. The following members participated: Victoria Kaspi (Vice-Chair, Canada), Grazina Tautvaisiene (Secretary, Lithuania), Peter Hadrava (Czech Republic) Bifang Liu (China) and Christoffel Wealkens (Belgium).

An agenda of the meeting contained: 1) Update of the C19 Mandate Art. 1; 2) Nomination of Associate members; 3) Preparations for the IUPAP General Report; 4) Enlargement of publicity of the IUPAP Young Scientist Medal in the field of Astrophysics awards.

Actions foreseen: 1) to start discussing among C19 members updates of the C19 Mandate Art. 1; 2) to remain with the two associate members of C19 already selected for the nomination; 3) to start circulating among the members of C19 the draft of report; 4) to send to all C19 members the nomination documents of winners of the IUPAP Young Scientist Medal in the field of Astrophysics; 5) at the 26th Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics (December 16–20, 2012 in Sao Paolo, Brazil), to honorably mention three outstanding applicants who were not selected for the IUPAP Young Scientist Medals in the field of Astrophysics award of 2011 and 2012: George Becker (Cambridge Institute of Astronomy, UK); Teruaki Suyama (University of Tokyo, Japan) and Sang Hoon Oh (Seoul National University, Korea).

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