

COMMISSION H2 – ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Since August 2021, Commission H2 has a new President and new Organizing Committee members:

President: Paola Caselli

Vice-President: Jes K. Jørgensen

Advisor (Past President): Edwin A. Bergin

Organizing Committee: Helen J. Fraser, Wolf D. Geppert, Dariusz C. Lis, Karin I. Öberg, Dmitry A. Semenov

After the success of the virtual conference “Astrochemical Frontiers 2020, Quarantine Edition”, in 2021 the H2 Committee organized a similar event: “Astrochemical Frontiers 2021, Quarantine Edition 2” (<https://sites.google.com/view/astrochemical-frontiers-2021>). As in 2020, for the 2021 conference we received almost 400 registrations and more than 100 abstracts were submitted. The conference was a success, as many young scientists had the opportunity to present their recent results and participate to discussions via a Slack channel. Besides gender and geographical balance, we also made sure to have talks from the different communities (observations, experiments, theory), as to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of Astrochemistry.

In 2021, the H2 Commission also prepared and submitted the proposal for the VIII IAU Astrochemistry Symposium (From the First Galaxies to the Formation of Habitable Worlds; <https://www.iau.org/science/meetings/proposals/loi/2023/2137/>), continuing the tradition of about six years interval between IAU Astrochemistry Symposia. As the last two Symposia were held in Spain (2011) and Chile (2017), we planned the next one in 2023 at Traverse City, MI, USA. To prepare for the outreach events associated with the 2023 Symposium, we also already contacted the Northern American Office of Astronomy for Development (NA-ROAD) and Geneva Lake Astrophysics and STEAM (GLAS), starting discussions via email and a google document to exchange ideas.