



CONTENTS

- I. Message from the Chair and Co-Chair of the IAU-WiA WG (1)
- II. IAU WiA WG Seminar Series-1 (2)
- III. Communication channels for the WG members (3)
- IV. Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Training program, and Seminars (3)
- V. Call for participation in the activities and National Representatives (3)
- VI. Invitation to join the WiA WG and welcome to new members (5)
- VII. Thanks to the IAU offices for their support to the WiA WG activities (5)

I. Message from the Working Group (WG) Chair & Co-Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the IAU Women in Astronomy Working Group Newsletter!

*It has been a busy and exciting start for our working group with the launch of our new website (<https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home?>), organization of activities and seminar series. We thank all the group members who participated in the 1st seminar series that was followed by 100s of participants all over the world. We also thank the group members who informed us about the activities they are carrying out at their local institutes on 'Women in Astronomy', and have sent their contribution for the 'ENSEMBLE' quarterly magazine that will be published in **December 2021**.*

*In this edition you will find the details of the training programs that will be organized in November, and a few announcements for the upcoming events. We would also like to draw your attention to the **Call for participation, funding requirements** and nomination of the 'National representative' for IAU WiA WG in your country. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your queries or suggestions.*

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the Newsletter.

Mamta Pommier (Chair) & Priya Hasan (Co-Chair)
on behalf of the IAU Women in Astronomy WG

IAU-WiA

II. IAU WiA WG Seminar Series-1

On **October 12th, 2021**, the WiA WG members organized the '*IAU Women in Astronomy seminar series - I*' to create awareness on the working situation of Women in Astronomy. 83 participants (90% female and 10% male) at different career stages and from all the continents registered for the 1st seminar series (Fig. 1). 54% participants held permanent positions and 46% were non permanent researchers and students. The Seminar series focused on the:

- working condition and career challenges faced by Women in Astronomy especially after the maternity phase in French institutions and universities,
- history of the American Astronomical Society and the activities of Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy that is committed to build an inclusive and self-sustaining community that supports gender equity and the success of women career in astronomy
- awareness and gender equality efforts being carried out in research organizations worldwide and systematic problems faced by Women in Astronomy as well as the efforts being carried out by the European Commission for ensuring equity and inclusion in education and how men could contribute towards gender equality in research organizations.

You can find the recorded version of the seminar series on the-

1- IAU WiA WG website- <https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home/upcoming-events-and-seminars?authuser=2> OR

2- IAU WiA WG youtube link (> 110 views!)- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIN0j7-teFY>

The motivation of the participants to attend this seminar series was to connect with fellow astronomers, learn the skills with which they can help next generation of researchers, understand the inner dynamics and contribute in efforts for bringing in more female in STEM, find ways to raise more awareness and initiate action in their country to make Astronomy more friendly and accessible for everyone, support Equality Diversity and Inclusion practices, understand the unconscious bias, learn more about the current situation with respect to Ph.D production, hiring and advancement, and get involved in the activities for WOMEN in ASTRONOMY WG.

The feedback received from these participants were very encouraging for the organizing committee and here are a few among those-

'The seminar series was a very good initiative, thanks for taking up a task which was pending for so long,

-Promote more the seminar series so that more people in the Astronomical community know and benefit from it.

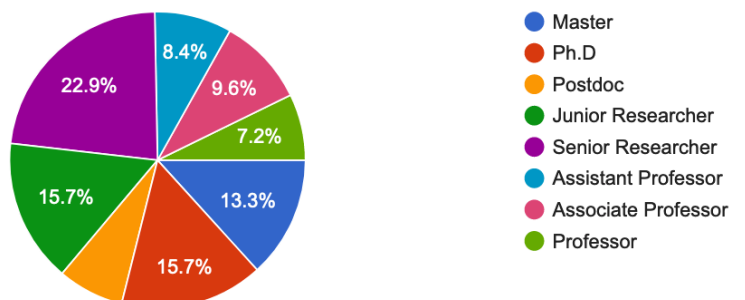
-The first seminar was great, the speakers had a personal connection to making academia a more welcoming place for women scientists.

-I learned about statistics that I didn't know about before and it was inspiring to hear president Debra Elmegreen's story.

-I think this series of seminars is great for creating awareness about gender issue in the astronomical community, it emphasizes woman in different fields and their challenges. Also, this will help our youth especially woman to see their role in the society and field of science.

-It showed that there is still a lot to do. But also that women need not to be shy on promoting themselves.'

Fig. 1 Career wise distribution of participants from all over the world for the IAU WiA Seminar Series-1



IAU-WiA

III. Communication channels for the WG member

The WG members are encouraged to refer/join the following communication channels for the announcements, activities, achievements, exchange of ideas, and hold discussions-

- **IAU WiA WG webpage:** <https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home?>
 - **Twitter page-** https://twitter.com/IAU_WiA
 - **Facebook page-** <https://www.facebook.com/people/Iau-Wia/100073009214033/>
 - **Youtube Channel-** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCViokvfBEQEWJZOTOm2oXxQ>
 - **SLACK channel-** https://join.slack.com/t/winatalk/shared_invite/zt-vivpm3gg-FOVq3UfnFL99W_J6sv4VCg.
-

IV. Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Training program, and Seminars

1. **October 27-29, 2021- Forum on Astronomy in Africa by the IAU-OAD** - <https://astronomy2024.org/save-the-date-27-29-october-2021-forum-on-astronomy-in-africa-and-the-iau-ga2024/>. We are presenting a short 2 mins video on WiA WG activities on 27th October.
2. **November 8-12, 2021- IAU WiA online Training program series-1** on ‘Essential Skills for Astronomy Research’ by Priya Hasan. Details of the **program** and **Registration** is open for **the Women participants** from all over the world until **October 31st, 2021** at: <https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home/upcoming-events-and-seminars/training-program-1>

The zoom link to attend the IAU WiA Training Program- 1 is available below:

Priya Hasan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: TP1: Skill Development for Women in Astronomy

Time: Nov 8, 2021 6-8 pm IST (UT+5.5)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89270098207?pwd=ZURHUUd5VnNGL0hSK0YvWlZhdmk3dz09>

Meeting ID: 892 7009 8207

Passcode: 596812

3. **Mid December 2021- IAU WiA online 2hrs Seminar series-2** - (TBC)
More details will be available on the website soon- <https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home/upcoming-events-and-seminars?authuser=2>
-

V. Call for participation to all the WG members and National Representatives

All WG members (Female and Male) are invited to:

1. **Nominate a National Representative for their country to work with the IAU-WiA WG:**
In order to create stronger links at the national level we invite the WG members to join the IAU WiA WG as a ‘National Representative’ (NR) for your country. Please note that the role of the NR is to help us to collect data from their respective countries, translate the emails into the local language to facilitate the interaction, and update us if they are any activity related to Women in

IAU-WiA

Astronomy being organized in their country. NR are not taking part in the decisions of the WG or the nomination of any other NR. We invite the National Astronomical Committee (NAC) to appoint a local NR to work with the IAU WiA WG or a self-nomination by an individual from the IAU WiA WG is also acceptable. Self-nomination is mostly encouraged for countries where there is no well-organized NAC or when an individual has a specific reason why they cannot be represented by their NAC.

Please fill in the form available at the link below, if you are interested in this role -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfN4ZBAA-4my135pJUaKT5a5tA6KG8tOp-aVVUTqVHUnacKCg/viewform?usp=sf_link

by **November 15th, 2021**.

Please note that the Organizing committee members are the NR for their countries. The Chair and Co-Chair are the NR for France and India respectively.

A few members have already expressed their interest and their names have been updated on the WiA website- <https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home/iau-wia-national-representatives?authuser=2>

2. **take the short survey on Women's Career in Astronomy:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScS4jZu5Ee8_ca2nNj1SXbC04AG0EOfuT2WsTawIeQjEb43A/viewform?usp=sf_link by **November 15th, 2021**. We also request all the **WG and NR members to forward this survey link to your local National Astronomy Communities and Astronomical societies** in order to include country-wise data for better statistics and global representation of the working situation of Women in Astronomy
3. **send your contributions:** for the IAU-WiA '*ENSEMBLE*' quarterly magazine: with your activities, workshop, funding related to WiA, etc., with a reference on 1 A4 page (rector-verso), a photo of the event, image, figure, etc. by **November 15th, 2021** to the WG chair @ iauwia2124@gmail.com. We *thank the members from Romania* who have already provided their interesting contributions for the upcoming issue of the '*ENSEMBLE*' quarterly magazine.
4. **express your interest to organize conference and seminars:** to increase the visibility of Women in Astronomy worldwide and provide an overview of the challenges faced by Women in research environment. If you are organizing an international conference or one in your country during the National Astronomical Communities days on the above theme and would like to invite members from the working group, or would like to give a talk in one of the announced meetings/seminars in the IAU-WiA newsletters, then please fill in your interests below- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0KimQnbH8ziJU-Ld9U8gy8D9egu1sxAG9-nB3EwTTvNdD4w/viewform?usp=sf_link
5. **provide resource materials:** these resource materials (plotting tool tutorials on archival data, learning kits for students, set of python or idl programs for creating plots, histograms, fitting curves, etc.) will be used for the skill development of Women in Astronomy during the training sessions. You can fill in your interest at the link below by **November 15th, 2021**-
 - **Training Program/Workshop proposition-** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8XDeOb9o2OEMDjpsGMs0wy014fJ6pYvfce7cL9ga3k8-ihw/viewform?usp=sf_link
 - **Resource Development-** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdh6v_BYhJs-eunUS6tM21albbK9sUHYLmnJDiweTwrPQgJKg/viewform?usp=sf_link

IAU-WiA

6. **Fundraising:** to support the career of Women in Astronomy worldwide we request the WG members to fill in the information regarding funding requirements at - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdyqSpQkEWwQd_42dBSj_mMVfk3rmCYgCgwAZ6IQv561Mmg_A/viewform?usp=sf_link
-

VI. Invitation to all the IAU members to join the WiA WG and welcome to new members

Finally a message to all the IAU members- If you wish to join the WiA activities or would like to share any information about matters that may be relevant to the activities of the Women in Astronomy WG, then please send an e-mail to WG Chair at iauwia2124@gmail.com. We will address your interests, queries or contributions in the next newsletter (November end) and your achievements and difficulties faced in the working environment in the quarterly IAU-WiA *ENSEMBLE* magazine.

New Members who joined the WG in October 2021:

- Beatriz Elena García, National Outreach Coordinator from Instituto de Tecnologías en Detección y Astropartículas (ITeDA), CNEA-CONICET-UNSAM, Argentina.

Welcome Beatriz, we are a team of 184 members now!

VII.Thank you to the IAU offices for their support to the WiA WG activities

We are grateful to the -

- IAU Executive committee members Debra Elmegreen, Maria Rosaria DANTONIO & Madeleine Smith-Spanier and
- IAU offices - OAO, OAD, OYA, OAE and the IAU Junior Member WG for their invaluable support to the IAU WiA WG activities!

Best regards,

Mamta Pommier (Chair) and Priya Hasan (Co-Chair)
on behalf of the IAU Women in Astronomy WG