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I. Message from the IAU Women in Astronomy Working Group Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the special 5th edition of the IAU Women in Astronomy Working Group Newsletter focused on activities organized to promote International Women and Girl's Day in Science and International Women's Day, in the month of Feb-Mar, 2022.

In this edition you will also find:

- details of the upcoming **IAU WiA WG Training Program Series-3 from 11th-15th April, 2022**
- call for participation in the Survey on 'The impact of Covid-19 situation on the career of Astronomers', **ENSEMBLE Magazine 2nd issue due in April 2022, building resource materials, fund raising, etc.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your queries or suggestions and keep checking you spam folders to not to miss our monthly newsletters and activities planned for coming months!

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

Mamta Pommier (Chair)

on behalf of the IAU Women in Astronomy WG

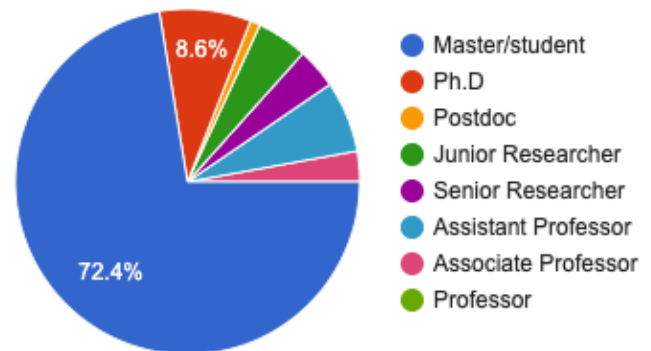
contact: iauwia2124@gmail.com

II. IAU WiA WG 11th Feb, 2022 event on ‘Meet the Scientists’ on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science

The *IAU Women in Astronomy ‘Meet the Scientists’ event* was organized on **11th Feb, 2022**, for worldwide female students and researcher in Astronomy to promote International Day of Women and Girl’s in Science and encourage female students to take up STEM career.

Inspiring lady scientists, **Prof. Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell (University of Oxford, UK)** and **Prof. Rohini Godbole (IISC, India)** were invited as they have played a great role in inspiring younger generation women scientists all over the world. Prof. Bell Burnell couldn’t attend the session due to unexpected health issues. This talk session was followed by an open panel discussion joined by **Dr. Samaya Michiko Nissanke, Dr. Mamta Pommier, and Dr. Priya Hasan**. The guests shared their career experiences, challenges faced by women with colored skin in Astronomy, and support offered by the colleagues and institutes during their career journey. They also shared their opinion about possible changes that should be implemented in research institutions in order to counter gender imbalance and discrimination. 105 participants (66.7% female, 33.0% male, 0.3% other genders) at different career stages (Fig. 1) and from 33 countries registered for the event. 36.2% participants held permanent positions and 63.8% were non permanent researchers and students.

Fig. 1 Career-wise distribution of participants from all over the world for the IAU WiA Meet the Scientists event.



A recorded version of the event is available at the-

1- IAU WiA WG website- <https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home/upcoming-events-and-seminars?authuser=0> &

2- YouTube channel- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCViokvfBEQEWJZ0TOM2oXxQ>

The motivation of the participants to attend this event was to expand their knowledge about the situation of Women in Astronomy, listen to the career experiences of leading scientists, stay motivated, encourage younger generation, gain confidence when trying to find a place and make name in the community, and to support women empowerment for the development of the society, especially in Africa.

A summary of feedback received from these participants are as below-

The overall feedback received by the participants for this event was very encouraging.

III. IAU WiA WG 8th March, 2022 event on ‘Enterprising Women in Astronomy’ on the International Women’s Day

The *IAU WiA ‘Enterprising Women in Astronomy’ event* was organized on **8th March, 2022**, for worldwide female researcher in Astronomy to promote International Women’s Day and encourage researchers in STEM.

Dr. Mamta Pommier gave a brief overview on the global IAU members and women in Astronomy working group. It is clear from the IAU members statistics that significant efforts are needed to increase the participation of members from all the genders in the Women in Astronomy WG activities in order to minimize the factors affecting women career in Astronomy. Lady scientists **Dr. Dr. Sthabile Kolwa**, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, **Dr. Helen Mason**, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, **Dr. Itziar Aretxaga**, INAOEP, Mexico, **Prof. Sara Seager**, O.C., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA, and **Dr. Stella Kafka**, Exec. Director American Meteorological Society Boston, USA were invited to share their career journey, celebrate their achievements, and get inspired by their career paths. They have actively taken up new initiatives, created resources, and supported either their own career in difficult circumstances or have supported the career of women and young girls in Astronomy down to school level by creating new opportunities. 93 participants (89.2% female, 9.7% male, 1.1% other genders) at different career stages (Fig. 2) and from 33 countries registered for the event. 49.5% participants held permanent positions and 50.5% were non permanent researchers and students.

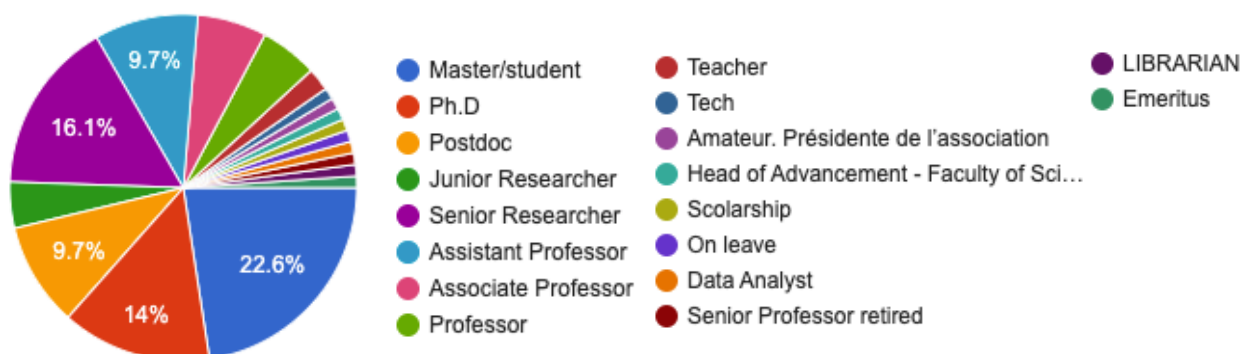


Fig. 2 Career-wise distribution of participants from all over the world for the IAU WiA Enterprising Women in Astronomy event.

A recorded version of the event is available at the-

1- IAU WiA WG website- <https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home/upcoming-events-and-seminars?authuser=0> &

2- YouTube channel- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INzYzFwropY>

The motivation of the participants to attend this event was to promote and encourage the role of women in science, learn about the current issues and status of women in astronomy, learn from experts (women) with different approaches in astronomy study and career possibilities, support diversity and inclusion in astronomy, identify the turning points in the career of Women astronomers and efforts needed to retain women in Astronomy who are highly marginalized and underpaid. ***The overall response received by the participants for this event was excellent!***

IV. IAU WiA WG and OAO office jointly organized the ‘Draw an Astronomer event’ during Feb-Mar, 2022

With the IAU Office of Outreach, the IAU WiA WG successfully organized the ‘Draw an Astronomer’ event. This program received an overwhelming response from 782 participants below 14 years age group from 20 different countries.

You can find the details of the program and entries at- <https://www.iau.org/public/women-and-girls-in-astronomy/>.

Promotional videos in different languages and activities were also organized by the IAU WiA Organizing committee members and scientists from different countries to promote these event and encourage school students. The details of these programs will be published in the *ENSEMBLE Magazine* 2nd issue.

V. Upcoming events

1. **11-15 th Apr, 2022- IAU WiA Training program Series- 3-** is open for registration for all the International astronomy community female members and students.

Please register at the following link for the event -<https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home/upcoming-events-and-seminars/training-program-3?authuser=0>



IAU **Women in Astronomy Working Group** 

VIRTUAL TRAINING PROGRAM SERIES - 3

April 11-15, 2022 | 14h00-16h00 Indian Standard Time (UTC - 5:30 hours)

Registration is open for all the International astronomy community female members and students.
 Program website- <https://sites.google.com/view/iau-women-in-astronomy/home/upcoming-events-and-seminars/training-program-3?authuser=0>
 Register @ <https://forms.gle/ZjKRXp7MLgotkMP76>

TP3-FROM ASTRONOMY DATA TO SCIENCE
by Dr. Priya Hasan (Co-chair IAU WiA WG)

11th Apr- 14h-16h IST	Exoplanets: Analysis of Kepler Data
12th Apr- 14h-16h IST	Photometry: Cluster using SDSS Data
13th Apr- 14h-16h IST	Color-Magnitude Diagrams of clusters: SDSS/Gaia
14th Apr- 14h-16h IST	Dark Matter: Estimation of Dark Matter using Gravitational Lensing
15th Apr- 14h-16h IST	AGN: Classifications of AGN using SDSS spectra

Coordinator: Mamta Pommier (Chair, IAU WiA)

Theme: The aim of this Training program is skill-building and development of women's careers in Astronomy. Tutorials/assignments will be given to the participants for practice sessions. Certificates will be given for participation and/or completion of assignments.

Contact email: iauwia2124@gmail.com
 IAU Women in Astronomy Working Group



2. **IAU General Assembly meeting WiA WG session at Busan, Aug 2022.** Please find more information and link for the registration @Website: http://www.iauga2022.org/program/program_06_8.asp?sMenu=ab06 & <http://www.iauga2022.org/> If you are attending the IAU General Assembly meeting WiA WG session at Busan and would like to give a presentation, then please get in contact with the WG chair and submit your abstracts at <http://www.iauga2022.org/>



IAUGA 2022

XXXIst International Astronomical Union
General Assembly

August 2 - 11, 2022 | BEXCO, Busan, Republic of Korea



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

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

1. Send your contributions for the **11th Feb and 8th March events** in a short 1-2 A4 page (recto-verso) write-up, with a photo, image, figure, etc. of the events that you have organized in your country for *11th Feb and 8th March, 2022*
2. Participate in the 5 mins survey on **Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the career and productivity of Astronomers**- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjIcfp-2HkSP4FPMRH_xPKlxEfNSyq_UFATRSx_hwB8p-Gg/viewform?usp=sf_link
3. **nominate a National Representative for their country to work with the IAU-WiA WG:**
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
4. **participate in building 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.
 - **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-eunUS6tM21albbK9sUHYLmnJDiweTwrPOgJKg/viewform?usp=sf_link
5. **join the IAU WiA subgroups:** at the following link -https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfN4ZBAA-4my135pJUaKT5a5tA6KG8tOp-aVVUTqVHUnacKCg/viewform?usp=sf_link if you wish to participate. We will contact you soon to participate in the subgroup activities and events.

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

Please send your contributions by **April 15th, 2022** @ iauwia2124@gmail.com. We will compile all your contributions in the next issue of IAU WiA 'ENSEMBLE' Magazine and share you videos on the IAU WiA webpage and social media channels to encourage Women and Girls in STEM career and gender balance in Astronomy.

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

A message to all the IAU members and readers- 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 and your achievements and difficulties faced in the working environment in the quarterly IAU-WiA *ENSEMBLE* magazine.

New Members who joined the WG in February-March 2022:

- Aysegul Fulya Teker Yelkenci, Istanbul Kultur University, Turkey
- Naghi Elisaeta Ana, Member of the Romanian National Astronomy Committee (CNRA), NAEC, Romania
- Thavisha Erandinie Dharmawardena, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Germany

Welcome all, we are a team of 198 members now!

Please note that to join the IAU WiA WG you need to be a member of IAU. In case you are not a member of IAU, then we will add your name to the National Representatives list and we thank you for your interest.

VIII. Acknowledgement

We thank the IAU Executive committee members 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)
on behalf of the IAU Women in Astronomy WG