

## FOREWORD

S. Boissier, President of the SF2A

The annual meeting of the French Society of Astronomy and Astrophysics (*Soci t  Franaise d’Astronomie et d’Astrophysique* - SF2A) has become a tradition, cherished by many permanent, doctoral and post-doctoral researchers. The 2017 edition took place from July 4th to July 7th in the center of Paris, having been efficiently prepared by members of the *Observatoire de Paris*, little after the celebrations of its 350th anniversary. This meeting, called both “*Semaine de l’astrophysique franaise*”, or “*Journ es de la SF2A*” (and just “SF2A” by many colleagues) included the general assembly of our society, plenary sessions aimed at a large audience of professionals, workshops dedicated to various scientific issues, the young researcher and thesis price ceremony, events for schools and the public, discussions concerning societal subjects. Above 300 colleagues participated in at least some of these moments.

During the plenary sessions, we enjoyed several presentations proposed by the various *Programmes Nationaux* and *Actions Sp cifiques* of INSU-CNRS. We learned among other subjects about the legacy of the Planck satellite, the observation of evolved stars with high angular resolution instruments, or the amazing landscapes and properties of Pluto. Representatives of institutions (G. Perrin for INSU, O. La Marle for CNES, B. Devost for CFHT) and the “*sections*” of CNRS (B. Mosser) and CNAP (H. Wozniak) addressed us in a frank and honest manner that sometimes lacks in more official contexts. Eduardo Unda-Sanzana was invited to present astronomy in Chile and the Chilean astronomy society (SOCHIAS). He gave a very interesting presentation, during which we learned that the Chilean government believe and invest in astronomy. An example for other countries. Finally, we hold our general assembly where the moral and financial reports were presented, and possible changes were discussed (concerning, e.g., the prices awarded by the society). A vote from the members will complement these presentations by the end of 2017.

Afternoons were dedicated to parallel workshops covering all branch of astronomy. These 15 workshops were selected among propositions from the *Programmes Nationaux* and *Actions Sp cifiques*, but also from individual members of the society. These workshops thus covered the interests of our whole community, in good accordance with the topicality of the field (the first exo-planet detection by the SPHERE instrument was announced during one of them).

A very nice moment every year is the SF2A prize ceremony (followed by a cocktail, almost as nice) that occurred this year in the historical Cassini room of the *Observatoire de Paris*. The laureate of the Thesis prize was Jean-Baptiste Fouvry who presented his brilliant work concerning galaxy dynamics after a dynamic introduction by B. Famey. D. Bockel e-Morvan introduced the laureate of the young researcher price: Beno t Carry, who then presented his work on asteroids in a very lively manner.

Most of the above concerns our science. It is, however, important to keep in mind that we are not isolated in ivory domes with our telescopes. Society evolves and our community is not unaffected by this evolution. Two lunch-meetings were the occasion to discuss some of these societal issues. The first one (organized by M.-J. Goupil and M. Deleuil) focused on questions related to gender and career, a regular topic in our meetings. The second one, concerning outreach, was co-organized by E. Lagadec, member of our board, and colleagues from the Canada France Hawaii Telescope. In a time of fast communication and fake news, we discussed about how we, scientists, journalists, youtubers, can provide to the public quality information and prevent people from being tricked (like it was the case in the recent “super-moon” frenzy). We thank warmly the journalists who accepted our invitation: S. Brunier, P. Henarejos, P. Pajot. Also concerning the diffusion of astronomy (and the role of professional astronomers for this goal), prizes were given to three classes of local schools in the context of the competition “*d couvrir l’univers*”; and D. Rouan gave a public talk, “*Le compte des mille et une exoplan tes*”

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at the *Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris*. In the recent years, the links between astronomy and society have also been encouraged through an increasing activity of the SF2A board on social networks.

The SF2A is also concerned by the well-being and the future of young researchers. As it has been the case for many years, PhD students were exempted of inscription fees, and we distributed grants to help the participation of several post-docs. We co-organized with the AUDDAS association an experience-sharing event for young researchers. Finally, board member O. Berné announced the coming survey of a generation of doctors that the SF2A will follow to obtain a better view of their conditions, aspirations, and future.

Several sponsors made these *Journées* possible. Especially in a time when it is difficult to raise funds for meetings such as our, the organizers and myself are very grateful for the financial help of INSU-CNRS, CNES, the *Service d'Astrophysique du CEA/DSM/IRFU*, the *Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale*, and the PN and AS of INSU-CNRS that have supported the organization of the workshops. We thank the sponsors of the research prize (DELL) and school competition (EDP-Science). We acknowledge the help of the *Observatoire de Paris* for the global organization and the *Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris* who let us use its theater for the public conference. I would like to thank all the members of the SF2A board who were all very active for preparing the meeting, and end with the local organizing committee: Sylvain Cnudde, Françoise Combes, Misha Haywood, Zakaria Meliani, Noël Robichon, Myriam Rodrigues, Frédéric Royer, Stéphane Thomas, with a very special mention for Paola di Matteo who chaired this LOC with *maestria*. They all made this meeting a success. In addition to the rich program mentioned above (and somewhat detailed in these proceedings), embracing all of the astronomy research performed in France, the work of the LOC has also offered to all the participants many opportunities to meet and discuss beyond the limits of their own field of expertise. One more reason to pursue the tradition of our annual meetings.

We will meet again next year, in Bordeaux.

Samuel Boissier, President of the SF2A