Proceedings of the annual meeting of the French Society of Astronomy & Astrophysics

Montpellier, June 4-7, 2013



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Foreword

The 2013 annual meeting of the French Society of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Société Française d'Astronomie et d'Astrophysique – SF2A) was hosted by the Laboratoire Univers et Particules de Montpellier from June 4 to 7. These "Journées" gathered about 320 professional astronomers and astrophysicists, who participated to plenary sessions organized by the SF2A and to workshops organized by the scientific committees of the "National Programs" and "Actions Spécifiques" of INSU-CNRS, several of them in collaboration with our special guest, the Nederlandse Astronomenclub (NAC).

During the plenary sessions excellent scientific reviews were presented on outstanding scientific results obtained recently by our community. Also, general interest talks led to topical discussions on scientific projects (e.g. at CFHT as presented by D. Devost) as well as on the organization and the future of french astronomical research in the international environment. In particular, the latest news on the reform of the International Astronomical Union was introduced by the General Secretary T. Montmerle, D. Mourard provided the community with information of the Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers (INSU-CNRS), and G. Chardin presented the activities related to astrophysics at the Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules (IN2P3-CNRS).

This year fifteen scientific workshops were organized on topical subjects, and two additional sessions were devoted to outreach and communication in astronomy and in sciences of the universe at large and to the organization of astronomy teaching at the Master level. A special session was organized between post-docs/students and former members of hiring committees in order to help the young researchers to build their applications for local and national jobs.

A large number of SF2A members attended the General Assembly where the annual activity and financial reports of our Society were presented by the president and treasurer of the SF2A Council, C.Reylé and S.Boissier. The 2013 SF2A "Thesis Prize" was presented to A. Strugarek by F. Combes (Paris Observatory) and the 2013 SF2A prize "Jeune Chercheur" was presented to K. Belkacem by J.P. Zahn (Paris Observatory) and G. Richard (HP). We warmly thank the sponsors of these prizes, respectively EdP Sciences and the HP company, for their continuing interest in our science and support to our Society. The first prize for the best French-Spanish collaboration was presented to E. Lellouch and P. Santos-Sanz by C. Reylé (president of the SF2A) and F. Figueras (vice president of the SEA). Following the award ceremony an excellent cocktail was served in the buildings and patio of the old Faculty of medicine (the oldest in France). The guests could enjoy wine tasting organized by local wine producers.

Along the Journées a number of social, outreach, and cultural events were organized. The SF2A Prize "Découvrir l'Univers" sponsored by EdP Sciences and Bayard Jeunesse was a wonderful success, with no more than twenty projects from schools all over Languedoc-Roussillon. The prizes were presented to collège de Lédignan, collège François Mitterrand of Toulouges, and école primaire Le Parterre of Bédarieux. The Montpellier city special prize was presented to école maternelle Cervantes of Montpellier. The award ceremony was held in the planetarium Galilé of Montpellier Agglomération. It was followed by a movie session offered by the planetarium to all the laureates. The official SF2A reception was offered by the city of Montpellier in the new city hall, where A. Crida gave an excellent public conference on the formation of the solar system.

We wish to thank the INSU-CNRS, the IN2P3-CNRS, the University of Montpellier II, the labex OCEVU, the Laboratoire Univers et Particules de Montpellier, as well as the CNES, the CEA, the National Programs and Actions Spécifiques of INSU-CNRS, the Mairie de Montpellier, Montpellier Agglomération and the Région

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Languedoc-Roussillon for their financial and organisational support. We are extremely grateful to the University of Montpellier I for hosting the Journées.

We warmly thank the members of the Local Organizing Committee: the chairs, A. Palacios and E. Nuss, and the team E. Martinez., C. Prévot, F. Amat, S. Colaiocco, A. Lèbre, D. Talbi, C. Mercier, Y. Gallant, E. Josselin, A. Marcowith, F. Piron, B. Plez, M. Renaud, F. Martins, D. Puy. Their outstanding work and their generous contributions were absolutely crucial for making the "Journées" such a success. Thanks also to SF2A board and council for its active contribution, and to the editors of these proceedings.

Céline Reylé Présidente de la SF2A