

FOREWORD

F. Herpin, President of the SF2A

As the new president of the French Society of Astronomy and Astrophysics (*Soci t  Franaise d'Astronomie et d'Astrophysique* - SF2A), it is an honour for me to write this foreword, specially because we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of our society. As underlined by my predecessors, the annual meeting of the SF2A is a very important moment for our community, a place where permanent, doctoral and post-doctoral researchers can exchange their ideas and present to the whole community their new discoveries.

The 2018 edition took place from July 3th to July 6th in Bordeaux, having been efficiently prepared by members of the *Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Bordeaux*. As every year, this meeting 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. The audience was one of the most important outside Paris since many years with more than 300 colleagues participated in at least some of these moments.

The programme of the plenary sessions was, as usual, very rich, with several high-quality presentations proposed by the various *Programmes Nationaux* and *Actions Sp cifiques* of INSU-CNRS, covering a broad range of astrophysical topics, including magnetic fields, planetology, gravitational waves, high-energy phenomena, Gaia, star formation, databases and current and future observing facilities such as SKA and ELT. Representatives of institutions (G. Perrin for INSU, M. Viso for CNES), the CNU (S. Mei), and the "sections" of CNRS (L. Cambresy) and CNAP (L. R zeau) presented us a detailed view of the french research situation with crucial informations for the career, followed by a talk by Olivier Bern  (from SF2A board) about the origin and future of astrophysics PhDs. This whole session was concluded by a very interesting discussion with the community.

The place of women in the science community is a very important topics, specially in physics and astronomy and the SF2A meeting was an excellent opportunity to discuss it. E. Kohler, in charge for the CNRS of the women/male equality and D. Chandesris, in charge of a study about women in the physics community were presenting their work and animating a very interesting discussion.

Like every year, SF2A had invited a "foreign" astronomical society. Krzysztof Czar presented astronomy in Poland and the Polish Astronomical Society. The audience was very impressed by the number of actions led by our polish colleagues. Our french society would be very happy to do so many things but manpower is lacking...

Afternoons were dedicated to parallel workshops covering all branch of astronomy. These 17 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. I would like to underline the parralel session about Professionals-amateurs collaborations which has met with an impressive success and should be renewed in future years.

Finally, the SF2A journ es were concluded by our general assembly where the moral and financial reports were presented. A vote from the members has complemented these presentations in Autumn 2018.

Three special moments usually illuminated the SF2A meeting. The first one was the "outreach" conference by Fr d ric Daigne about the first detection of gravitational waves emission. The second one was the SF2A prize ceremony. The laureate of the Thesis prize was Pierre Janin-Potiron who presented his brilliant work concerning high contrast imaging and high angular resolution technics. The laureate of the young researcher price was Miho Janvier for her work on the sun and its effects in the Solar System. This ceremony was followed by a dinner-cocktail, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our society. Last but not least, an important moment of the week was the School project prize called "D couvrir l'Univers" which was given to three lyc es and an elementary school. The jury was really impressed by their work.

Several sponsors made this meeting possible. The organizers and myself are very grateful for the financial help of INSU-CNRS, CNES, the *Service d'Astrophysique du CEA/DSM/IRFU*, the *Observatoire Aquitain des Sciences de l'Univers*, the *Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Bordeaux*, the Université de Bordeaux, and the PN and AS of INSU-CNRS that have supported the organization of the workshops. We thank the sponsors of SF2A prizes and school competition (EDP-Science, Belin, Ciel et Espace, Astronomie Espace Découverte). We acknowledge the help of the *Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Bordeaux* for the global organization and the *Université de Bordeaux* for its beautiful conference site at Pey-Berland. 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: Cécile Arnaudin, Françoise Billebaud, Géraldine Bourda, Hervé Bouy, Jonathan Braine, Nathalie Brouillet, Pierre Gratier, and myself. 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.

See you next year in Nice!

Fabrice Herpin, President of the SF2A