

**First Meeting of the Organizing Committee of the
IAU Commission on Massive Stars
20 October 2015**

All members (Artemio Herrero – AH, Jorick Vink – JV, Nicole St-Louis – NSL, You-Hua Chu – YHC, Asif ud-Doula – AuD, Jose Groh – JG and Gregor Rauw – GR) are present by Skype.

IAU General Assembly, Honolulu August 2015

Two members of the Organizing Committee (JG and NSL) have attended the IAU General Assembly last summer and make a brief report to the rest of the committee.

NSL makes the following points:

A) IAU commission structure

The IAU commission structure will be a dynamic entity; the present commissions are only nominated for a limited period of time. We should continue to promote the activities of our community and try to innovate and seek new ways to make it more visible within the IAU. Possible things we could do: (i) *Interact with other commissions* in our division and (ii) *Increase the membership of our commission*.

B) IAU Division G

The first *scientific* division meetings were held and were a success but it is still unclear if these will continue in the future. The executive of Division G were eager to have more IAU meetings on stars as there were not so many during this GA.

JG suggests:

We should contact working groups that already exist such as the one on Active B stars and foster the creation of WGs related to massive stars, such as on Supernova.

The 3 meetings supported by our massive-star working group were well attended and very interesting:

FM 16 -- *Stellar Behemoths - Red Supergiants across the local Universe* – Ben Davies

FM 7 -- *Stellar Physics in Galaxies throughout the Universe* – Claus Leitherer

IAUS 316 -- *Formation, evolution, and survival of massive star clusters* – Corinne Charbonnel & Antonella Nota

Secretary election

NSL is elected secretary of commission G2.

Description of our commission

We devise to write a short description of our Commission for the official Web site, as requested by the IAU.

Our commitment and how to move forward

The proposal for our commission listed several objectives:

- a) Maintain the Massive Stars Newsletter and the 24-hour service and promote its dissemination.
- b) Continue to promote international conferences and workshops. Aim to hold at least 3 IAU Symposia or meetings of similar level between 2015 and 2025.
- c) Increase our efforts to strengthen our links with other research communities and make our results easily accessible to them. To this aim we will promote the Massive Stars Newsletter among those communities, look for common meetings and develop web tools for massive-star research.
- d) Foster new ways of active participation in our community, particularly for young researchers, by regular consultation and web tools. We expect also a large number of "Associates" for which these ways of participating will be of first importance.
- e) We will reinforce public outreach by means of open web pages and public talks and seminars. To this aim we will seek links with and advices from the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach and the National Outreach Contacts.

We discuss potential ways to put our community forward.

Registry of expertise

AuD suggests we create a directory of potential speakers, with keywords indicating their expertise, which can be used for invitations to scientific or public talks. This list should be available through our commission web page. The newsletter can be used to encourage members to register for such a directory

Web site update

We all agree that our web site needs improvement and that this is very important and should be a priority. JG volunteers to work with Raphael Hirschi to make this update. In the meantime, our old Web site should be updated as some parts are out of date.

Newsletter

We discuss how to improve our newsletter and its dissemination. Several ideas are proposed: contact other commissions, working groups and newsletters to ask them if they would be willing to place links to our web page and we could do the same; ask our division to place a list of newsletters edited by their Commissions and Working Groups; seek inspiration from other newsletters; ask our community for ideas.

Strengthen our links with other communities

JV suggests that we organize a meeting with another community every 2-3 years to help our objective of holding 3 IAU Symposia in the next decade. NSL suggests that we keep a list of meetings organized within the community or closely related to us on the web page to show that our community is active. We think that our web page should also include links to interesting web tools such as those made available by the Geneva or Potsdam groups.

ATHENA

GR, as co-chair of one of the scientific working groups within ATHENA, the next ESA X-ray observatory reports that very few members from the massive-star community attend these meetings, in spite of its interest for our science. He suggests making a call in our Newsletter for interested people ready to dedicate time and effort.

Citizen Science projects

YHC explains the Citizen Science project, in which non-professionals use massive databases made available (like image collections) to make extensive searches. She suggests that such a project would be a good way to both promote the field of massive stars and for public outreach.

Next meetings

We agree to hold 2-3 teleconferences per year. The next one should be in January-February 2016.