



International Astronomical Union

Union Astronomique Internationale

98bis bd Arago, F - 75014 Paris, France ▪ www.iau.org

Debra Elmegreen – President

email: elmegreen@vassar.edu

January 22, 2024

Mariana Orellana, President
Asociación Argentina de Astronomía
Paseo del Bosque s/n
La Plata, B1900FW
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear President Orellana:

I write on behalf of the International Astronomical Union in support of scientists in Argentina, and to underscore the importance of their work to society. As you know, the IAU was founded in 1919 as the worldwide organization of professional astronomers, and now has 12,000 members from 90 countries. The IAU mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through international cooperation. Argentina joined the IAU in 1927, and has over 160 Individual Members.

We believe that science is vital to the economic well-being of a society. It provides a means for advancement in education and technology, which together facilitate development in communities. The tools and techniques of astronomy, such as instrumentation, computer programming, image analysis, statistical analysis, and manipulation of large datasets, are transferable to many other fields, including medicine, health, finance, climate science, and engineering. In the technical world today, it is especially critical for the public to be scientifically literate and have an appreciation for science. Astronomy is a gateway to science for many people, because it inspires curiosity. Astronomy encompasses physics, chemistry, biology, geology, climate and atmospheric sciences, math, and computer sciences. As the oldest science, astronomy is rooted in our histories and cultures, forging common bonds across societies.

Argentina has played a key role in collaborative science efforts with some of the first sky surveys, including the Uranometria Argentina, Carte du Ciel, and the Cordoba Durchmusterung at the Argentine National Observatory, now the Astronomical Observatory of Cordoba. Argentina also has a long history within the IAU. Argentina hosted the XX1st IAU General Assembly in Buenos Aires in 1991, as well as seven IAU Symposia. Argentina has hosted three IAU International Schools for Young Astronomers to train graduate students in data analysis and observations. Its Network for Astronomy School Education provides teacher training in astronomy, and has hosted 25 courses in Argentina in the past two decades. Argentina also has National Astronomy Education Coordinators through the IAU Office of Astronomy for Education, and communicates astronomy to the public through its National Outreach Coordinators working with the IAU Office of Astronomy Outreach. The first Argentinian president of the IAU, from 1985-1988, was Jorge Sahade, a CONICET astronomer. Cristina Mandrini, current President of the IAU National Committee of Astronomy for Argentina, also is President of IAU Division E on the Sun and Heliosphere.

We are grateful for your continued efforts in astronomical research and the use of discoveries and methods to stimulate advances in Argentina. It is vital that Argentina maintain its strong leadership in astronomy and science.

Best regards,

Debra Elmegreen
IAU President

Executive Committee

Officers:

Prof. Debra Elmegreen (USA), President
Prof. Piero Benvenuti (Italy), Interim General Secretary
Prof. Willy Benz (Switzerland), President-Elect
Prof. Diana Worrall (UK), Assistant General Secretary
Prof. Ewine van Dishoeck (Netherlands), Advisor, Past President
Prof. Teresa Lago (Portugal), Advisor, Past General Secretary

Vice Presidents:

Prof. Laura Ferrarese (Canada)
Prof. Daniela Lazzaro (Brasil)
Prof. Junichi Watanabe (Japan)
Prof. Hyesung Kang (South Korea)
Prof. Solomon Tessema (Ethiopia)
Prof. Ilya Usoskin (Finland)