



Argentina, January 2025

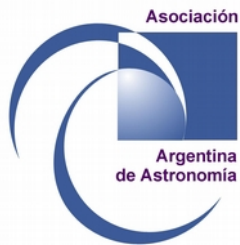
Dear President of the A&A Board of Directors,
Dr. Arūnas Kučinskas

On December 23, 2024, a videoconference meeting took place between the Argentine Association of Astronomy (AAA) and representatives of the country's astronomical research institutions, with the main participation of our Astronomy & Astrophysics's Board of Directors Member, Dr. Carlos Gabriel. This meeting was convened to inform us of the suggested changes in publication policies. After some consultation, we all agreed on the plan's soundness, foreseeing negative repercussions after an increase in the size of A&A. All the arguments presented, together with the budget analysis, make sense with the proposed measures. We are very grateful for the information and conclude that we will respond in favor of the suggested changes, as they will avoid future economic problems and maintain the excellent performance achieved so far.

After this statement, it is also necessary to mention again our peculiar situation. The Argentine participation in the Editorial Executive Committee of the A&A journal allows us to publish research results, achieving a high international impact factor at a convenient return factor that, even with the new costs, will remain reasonable. Our national participation is currently paid by the people who voluntarily collaborate to collect the amount, i.e. the AAA (non-profit astronomers) suggests a charge to Argentine researchers who publish as the first author of an article in A&A.

Between 2022 and 2024 that meant that researchers contributed the ARS equivalent to around 200 USD, mostly from local grants. Then, we faced serious difficulties in transferring the money saved, and it did suffer devaluation.

The policies of our current government led to further complications as new research grants are not available, and for those fortunate enough to still have one, they were also devalued. It was exposed beyond our borders that national publicly funded



science is under a severe threat, leading to a massive brain drain.

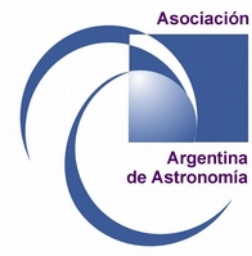
Today, a researcher must pay out of his own pocket an amount that represents a good fraction of his low salary (about \$1000 per month for a young fellow) to AAA if he publishes in A&A. Last year, most of our colleagues did not contribute, some because they could not afford it, others did not want to do so and preferred to go into debt until things improve. In any case, our Association is committed to mediate as long as we continue to be an A&A sponsor country.

The A&A Board was kind enough and generous to consider all this for 2024 and 2025. The dynamics of the budget execution of the National Public Administration during 2024 make it foreseeable that we may still need to request special treatment for our dues in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Mariana Orellana
Presidente





Some updated context

La Ejecución Presupuestaria de la Administración Pública Nacional - noviembre 2024

Link informe CEPA

<https://centrocepa.com.ar/informes/591-la-ejecucion-presupuestaria-de-la-administracion-publica-nacional-noviembre-2024>

Por la inflación y el retraso del salario mínimo y cambiario desde diciembre

El costo de vida más caro de toda Latinoamérica

Link pagina12

<https://www.pagina12.com.ar/761528-el-costo-de-vida-mas-carro-de-toda-latinoamerica>

Argentina's researchers fear collapse of Science

Nature 636, 528-529 (2024)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-03994-y>