

## Report of Affiliated Commission AC2 for 2015

Affiliated Commission AC2 is the International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation (ISGRG).

**Meetings:** ISGRG meets triennially with our next meeting, *GR21*, scheduled for July 2016 at Columbia University in New York City. The Scientific Organizing Committee chaired by Prof. Eric Poisson of Guelph University (Canada) has been active over the past year and has completed nearly all its work. The first announcement of the organizers may be found at <http://www.isgrg.org/GR21FirstAnnouncement.pdf> and the conference website at <http://www.GR21.org>.

**Young Scientist Prize:** In 2015, we awarded the 3rd IUPAP General Relativity and Gravitation Young Scientist Prize to Prof. Nicolas Yunes of Montana State University. The citation reads “For his wide-ranging and important contributions to the field of gravitational wave astrophysics.” While Prof. Yunes has already received his medal and check, the official presentation will be made at GR21 with travel funds for the 2014, 2015, and 2016 winners provided through the generosity of Prof. A. Ashtekar.

**Other Prizes:** ISGRG offers two thesis prizes, the Jürgen Ehlers Thesis Prize in the areas of mathematical and numerical general relativity and the Bergmann-Wheeler Thesis Prize in the broad area encompassing all approaches to quantum gravity. Nominations for both prizes are currently open. The awards will be made at GR21.

**Centennial of General Relativity:** On November 25, 1915, in Berlin, Albert Einstein presented for the first time the complete field equations for his theory of general relativity. ISGRG as well as gravitational physicists around the world are marking the centennial of this event in many ways. ISGRG has endorsed a conference to be held from 30 Nov to 5 Dec 2015 in Berlin (near the site of the original presentation). This will be our official celebration of the centennial. It is being organized jointly by the Max Planck Institutes for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute) and the History of Science. The first part of the meeting will consist of reviews of current research frontiers in physics and astronomy that are impacted by general relativity. The second part will consist of a historical examination of the development of the theory and its integration into mainstream physics. See <http://www.einsteinconference2015.org> for additional information. We are maintaining a list of other centennial activities by national general relativity organizations on our website, including regional meetings and public lectures, as we hear about them. Also in honor of the General Relativity centennial, ISGRG commissioned a volume of review articles by distinguished authors, edited by A. Ashtekar, B. Berger, J. Isenberg, and M. MacCallum, entitled “*General Relativity and Gravitation: a Centennial Perspective*.”<sup>1</sup> The volume, published by Cambridge University Press, appeared in June 2015. Any royalties will accrue to ISGRG to support its programs. A conference sponsored by ISGRG was held at the Pennsylvania State University, 8 – 12 June 2015, to commemorate the release of this volume. See

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/physics/cosmology-relativity-and-gravitation/general-relativity-and-gravitation-centennial-perspective> for additional information.

<http://event.gravity.psu.edu/index.shtml> for additional information about the conference.

Finally, ISGRG has launched a Centennial Membership Drive to increase participation in our Society.

Gary Horowitz  
ISGRG President (2013-2016)