

Report of Affiliated Commission AC.2 for 2013-14

Affiliated Commission AC.2 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. Preparations are already underway with the selection of the Scientific Organizing Committee chaired by Prof. Eric Poisson of Guelph University (Canada).

Young Scientist Prize: In 2014, we awarded the 2nd IUPAP General Relativity and Gravitation Young Scientist Prize to Dr. Jorge E. Santos of Stanford University and the University of Cambridge. The citation reads “For finding the first example of a classical gravitational instability of an asymptotically flat vacuum higher-dimensional black hole solution; for using numerical methods to construct novel anti-de Sitter black hole solutions and using these to explore the connections between gravitational systems and inhomogeneous strongly coupled condensed matter systems.” While Dr. Santos 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.

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.aei.mpg.de/1569589> for additional information. We plan to maintain 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.” The volume will be published by Cambridge University Press, is now in press, and should appear in June 2015. Any royalties will accrue to ISGRG to support its programs.

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

Gary Horowitz
ISGRG President (2013-2016)