

Report of Affiliated Commission AC2 for May 2018

Affiliated Commission AC.2 is the International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation (ISGRG).

Meetings: ISGRG meets triennially with our next meeting, the 22nd International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation (GR22), scheduled for July 2019 in Valencia, Spain. The Scientific Organizing Committee chaired by Prof. Vitor Cardoso of Instituto Superior Técnico (Portugal) is well underway. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the 13th Edoardo Amaldi Conference on Gravitational Waves (Amaldi13), the biennial meeting organized by WG11: Gravitational Wave International Committee (GWIC). WG13: Newtonian Constant on Gravitation will also participate in this meeting. In response to a website falsely claiming to be that for GR22, we followed the advice of IUPAP Past President B. McKellar to seek endorsement for the joint meeting. We are grateful to have received this endorsement. The conference website, <http://www.gr22amaldi13.com>, includes the IUPAP logo.

Young Scientist Prize: In 2018, we awarded the 4th IUPAP General Relativity and Gravitation Young Scientist Prize to Dr. Samuel E. Gralla of the University of Arizona. The citation reads “For his exceptional and broadly varied contributions to general relativity and relativistic astrophysics.” The official presentation to Dr. Gralla and the 2017 and 2019 recipients will be made at GR22.

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 and will remain open through August 2018. The awards will be made at GR22.

Highlights: ISGRG was pleased to note the award of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics to Profs. Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish, Kip Thorne “for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves” and, on 17 August 2017, the detection of the first binary neutron star merger and its aftermath, by the LIGO and Virgo Collaborations and by hundreds of astronomers around the world. This was the first event ever recorded in both gravitational and electromagnetic waves.

Submitted by

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