

Report of Affiliated Commission AC.2 for 2014-15

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. The Scientific Organizing Committee chaired by Prof. Eric Poisson of Guelph University (Canada) has been active over the past year and has nearly completed its work.

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*.” 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. A conference sponsored by ISGRG to be held at the Pennsylvania State University, 8 – 12 June 2015, will commemorate the release of this volume. See <http://event.gravity.psu.edu/index.shtml> for additional information.

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

Gary Horowitz
ISGRG President (2013-2016)

AC3 International Commission for Acoustics (ICA) Report to IUPAP C&CC Meeting in Trieste April 2015 Marion Burgess ICA President 2013-2016

1. ICA Governance The ICA comprises the acoustical societies from 47 member countries plus 8 international affiliate organizations which themselves have individual members distributed across the world and also organize international conferences every one or two years.

The revised governance arrangements agreed to at the 2013 General Assembly have encouraged greater involvement in the ICA activities. The new board comprises representatives from the following countries: Australia, China, Germany, Canada and Spain in the executive, and Brazil, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Poland, Slovakia, UK and USA. Among the board are 3 females with one being the President. The first full meeting of the new board was held in September at the time of an acoustics conference in Europe and the 2015 meeting will be held at the end of May. The ICA allocates the majority of its funding to the support of symposia annually and every 3 years to Young Scientist awards for participation at the Congress and the prestigious Early Career Award.

2. Symposium Support Annually, the ICA provides support for specialist symposia and selection requires some international involvement with priority for developing countries. The meetings supported with between 500 and 1,000 Eu for 2014 include:

- Vienna Talk 2015 on Music Acoustics "Bridging the Gaps", September 16-19 (Vienna)
- 20th Int Symposium on Nonlinear Acoustics, June 29 - July 3 (Ecully, France)
- Audio and Acoustic Signal Processing 2015, September 10 (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)
- The Science of Acoustics serving the Food, the Nutrition and the Environment, September 25 (Milan, Italy)
- XXXII Symposium on Hydroacoustics, May 19-22 (Jurata, Poland)
- EAA European Symp on Virtual Acoustics and Ambisonics, Sept 21-23 (Valencia)

The ICA now provides the consolidation of the symposium support for the Acoustical Society of America and the following meeting was supported under that arrangement

- 3rd International Conference of the Acoustical Society of Nigeria (ASON 2015), June 8-11 (Nsukka, Nigeria)

3. ICA Congress The major activity for the ICA is the congress held every 3 years. ICA 2013, Montreal, Canada, was one of the biggest meetings in acoustics ever with 2300 registrants, over 1600 technical papers, and 49 Exposition booths. Planning is now well in hand for ICA 2016 to be held in Argentina. Preliminary planning is in progress for ICA 2019 to be held in Germany. One feature of the ICA congresses is the high proportion of student participants. Although the low student registration fee means the income from the conference is usually low, the ICA considers it is vitally important to encourage this student participation. The ICA further encourages participation of young acousticians with the award of up to 30 **Young Scientist** Conference Attendance grants each worth 500 Eu.

4. Early Career Award The selection process for the prestigious "ICA Early Career Award" will commence soon for the presentation at the time of the 2016 congress. This award includes an Award Certificate, a Medal, and an Honorarium of 2,000 Eu which is expected to be used to provide travel assistance for the recipient to present a plenary lecture at the Congress.

5. ICA Congress Proceedings While the proceedings since the 1990s were available from the website, the ICA has arranged for the scanning and free availability on the website of all the past Congress proceedings back to the first ICA in Delft in 1953.

6. Acousticians 100 years In the past year two acousticians have enjoyed celebrations for 100 years. Leo Beranek, a pioneer in architectural acoustics, who still actively participates in meetings. Per Brüel who developed the reliable portable sound level meter with colleague Kjaer. He attended and participatory special celebratory meeting in Denmark but sadly passed away a few weeks later. The ICA maintains a webpage to keep an ongoing record of such achievements.

7. International Year of Sound The ICA is continuing with the plans for the International Year of Sound in 2019. A steering committee and a working committee have been established and the time line is being formalized with advice from our colleagues who gained success in the bid for the International Year of Light. As well as support from the IUPAP we will also seek the support of the commissions within IUPAP that have some involvement of acoustics in their area. This poster is used to promote the ICA including during the Expresso session at the 2014 ICSU GA.

