

Division VIII: Galaxies and the Universe

PRESIDENT: Francesco Bertola

BOARD: M. Birkinshaw, F. Combes, S. Lilly, S. Okamura
(Vice-President), J. Peacock, E.M. Sadler, V. Trimble,
and R. Webster

Commission 28: Galaxies

Commission 47: Cosmology

As documented by the reports of the Presidents of Commission 28 and Commission 47 the fields of extra-galactic research and cosmology have experienced a higher and higher development leading to a vast harvest of results and discoveries. They range from the description of the overall structure of the universe to that of the individual properties of galaxies. The availability of very large telescopes and the coverage of regions of the sky with deep surveys, on the observational side, and the wide use of sophisticated numerical simulations on the theoretical one are starting to produce a satisfactory understanding of the physical processes taking place during the evolution of galaxies. Very often there is an profitable interplay between the subjects of the two Commissions without clearcut boundaries. This makes Division VIII, which is one of the largest of the IAU, counting 1373 members, very well balanced and deserving to remain without modifications for the future.

The recent revival of the Supernova Working Group at the 2003 General Assembly as part of Division VIII is fully justified by the deep cosmological implications provided by the study of the stellar explosions.

The following IAU Meetings, coordinated by Division VIII or supported by the two Commissions are planned from summer 2005 to the end of 2006.

IAU Symposium No. 230: Populations of High-Energy Sources in Galaxies, August 15–19 2005, Dublin, Ireland.

IAU Symposium No. 231: Astrochemistry throughout the Universe: Recent Successes and Current Challenges, August 29–September 2 2005, Monterey, CA, USA.

IAU Symposium No. 234: Planetary Nebulae in our Galaxy and Beyond, April 3–7, 2006, Waikoloa Beach, HI, USA.

IAU Symposium No. 235: Galaxy Evolution across the Hubble Time, August 14–17, 2006, Prague, Czech Republic.

IAU Symposium No. 238: Black Holes: from Stars to Galaxies—across the Range of Masses, August 14–18, 2006, Prague, Czech Republic.

IAU Symposium No. 241: Stellar Populations as Building Blocks of Galaxies, December 10–14, 2006, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain.

Francesco Bertola
President of the Division