



2022 President's report

Australasian Society for General Relativity and Gravitation

Committee

- President: Jörg Frauendiener (Otago, NZ)
- Treasurer: Karl Wette (ANU)
- Secretary: Malcolm Anderson (Brunei)
- Members: Susan Scott (ANU), David Wiltshire (Canterbury, NZ)
- coopted members: Krzysztof Bolejko (Hobart)

No activities in 2020/2021

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the ASGRG has not held any activities in the period since ACGRG10, ie. in 2020 and 2021. The biennial Australasian Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation (ACGRG) takes place every other year alternating with the AIP-Congress. The current conference ACGRG11 was scheduled for December 2021 but it was moved to February 2022 in the hope that it could be held in a hybrid mode with some participation in person. But this hope did not materialise.

Prizes

- David Blair, David McClelland, Susan Scott, Peter Veitch were awarded the 2020 Australian Prime Minister's Prize for Science.
- Susan Scott was awarded the international Dirac Medal for Theoretical Physics (UNSW) for 2020.

Kerr-Tinsley Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) application

The CoRE application for the Kerr-Tinsley Centre which was submitted in 2020 by J. Adams, R. Easther and D. Wiltshire made it into the second round of the competition but failed in the final round. A new call might be made in the next few years.

Council Marsden on "Gravitational waves: sources and signals"

The Royal Society Te Aparangi granted a \$3M grant to PI Renate Meyer of U Auckland and several AIs to study selected aspects of gravitational waves. The emphasis lies on primordial sources, EMRIs and statistical methods for data analysis.

NZ gravity group

There is now a new working group on astro-statistics and general relativity established in New Zealand. Details can be found on the website www.gravity.ac.nz. One of its first activities was a LISA-workshop held in Auckland in February 2021.

AIP congress 2022 in Adelaide

The AIP congress 2022 will take place in Adelaide, 11.-16. December. The ASGRG will be present there and can nominate a plenary speaker. This was already done for us because currently Kip Thorne is nominated. It is unclear whether he will accept. We should try to prevent the situation of 2019 when there was no ASGRG nominated plenary speaker because Ray Weiss had to cancel on short notice. Thankfully, Susan stepped in.

The ASGRG can also nominate invited speakers for the GR session of the meeting. These will receive no support from the congress except possibly waiver of their conference fees.

Website

The website at www.asgrg.org should receive a new look in the near future.

Membership

Membership of the society is down to 63 (59 life and 4 non-life) from last time. This is due to a "cleaning" of the membership list.