

IAU ECA Online Discourse Series

International Astronomical Union Early Career Astronomer Online Discourse Series

Register for this free event to get access via Zoom and Youtube:

<https://forms.gle/KHsjyu2jm3ogCdkq9>

Thursday October 15th, 2020

8:00-9:00 UTC / 10:00-11:00 CEST



"The IAU: What does it do? How to get involved?" & "Careers discussion"

Prof Dr. Ewine F. van Dishoeck (IAU President)

The mission of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) is to promote and safeguard astronomy in all its aspects through international cooperation. Over the past decade, the IAU has evolved from an organization that was primarily focused on bringing together people for scientific meetings, to an organization that also has development, outreach and education as anchor points through its OAD, OAO, OYA and OAE offices.

This brief talk will give a brief overview of the IAU's history since its foundation a century ago, and look forward through the IAU Strategic Plan 2020-2030 posted at www.iau.org, and opportunities for JMs to get involved in IAU activities.

The second part of the interview will provide a brief overview of my career and some advice to young scientists.

Ewine F. van Dishoeck is professor of molecular astrophysics at Leiden University, the Netherlands. She graduated at Leiden in 1984 and held positions at Harvard, Princeton and Caltech before returning to Leiden in 1990. The work of her group innovatively combines the world of chemistry with that of physics and astronomy to study the molecular trail from star-forming clouds to planet-forming disks. She has mentored several dozens of students and postdocs and has been heavily involved in planning new observational facilities such as the Herschel Space Observatory, ALMA and JWST. She has received many awards, most notably the 2018 Kavli Prize for Astrophysics. She is a Member or Foreign Associate of several academies. As of 2018, Ewine serves as the president of the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

Prof. Dr. Maria Teresa V. T. Lago (IAU General Secretary)

I will address the multiple IAU missions. Although the focus of the IAU is the advancement of knowledge and the promotion of research in astronomy, since it is deeply impacted by other actions, for the

furtherance of its mission, the IAU has created four offices, with a specific focus on other essential activities: training, communication, education and development.

These offices are based on partnerships with other organisations worldwide, have a clear mandate and carry out specific activities to achieve the goals proposed in the IAU 2020-2030 Strategic Plan.

As the IAU has 82 national members and 12,000 individual members from more than 100 countries, there is another obvious role expected by the IAU - to stimulate better understanding between nations and cultures, and also to actively promote inclusion through sharing knowledge, resources and opportunities. This is an essential role for the advancement of astronomy, but also in a broader perspective, seeking to achieve a sustainable and balanced global development.

Astronomy is immensely attractive, for all ages. Therefore, the magic of astronomy has a decisive role to play in advancing knowledge. And it empowers individuals - the power of knowledge and understanding, which are the basis for critical and informed participation.

My career: I will briefly mention how challenging it was to make an academic career in astrophysics in a country where training and research in modern astrophysics were then non-existent. How crucial was international collaboration and how this hard experience influenced my future path in terms of national and international research policy, from the creation of the bases for astronomy training and research structures in my country, and also in Europe as a founding member of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (2005-2013). I will speak briefly of my main interests, which are astrophysics, research & education, scientific culture, science management & science policy.

Moderated by: [Dr. Fatoumata Kebe](#) & [Dr. Themiya Nanayakkara](#)

Thursday October 22nd, 2020

8:00-9:00 UTC / 10:00-11:00 CEST



"Careering through astrophysics"

Prof. Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell (University of Oxford)

In this talk I will reflect on twists and turns in my career, and draw out what lessons I can that might be of use to other people in other cultures.

Moderated by: [Dr. Sudeshna Boro Saikia](#) & [Dr. Maria N. Drozdovskaya](#)

Thursday October 29th, 2020

9:00-10:00 UTC / 10:00-11:00 CET



“ESO: the most powerful telescopes and a community of practice”

Prof. Dr. Xavier Barcons (ESO Director General)

ESO’s mission is to build and operate world-class astronomical observatories and foster cooperation in astronomy. The current portfolio of ESO’s telescopes include some of the most powerful and unique optical/IR facilities in the world like the VLT and its interferometer VLTI, ALMA – a partnership with North-America and East Asia, and will be joined in the next years by the ELT, the largest of the next generation of telescopes in the optical/IR. Together with the support from ESO Member States, cooperation with R&D institutes, industries and other equally important stakeholders are essential for the success of our Mission. Exchange of knowledge and training are activities embraced by the organisation, as a way to secure our future and a synergetic evolution with the community. Science and Engineering studentships and fellowships as well as internships are amongst the most used channels at ESO to engage new generations in all facets of astronomical development. At this talk, I will give an overview of ESO’s activities focusing on some of these aspects.

Moderated by: [Dr. Maria N. Drozdovskaya](#) & [Dr. Camilla Danielski](#)

Thursday November 12th, 2020

9:00-11:00 UTC / 10:00-12:00 CET



Life is too short for
bad presentations

Workshop "How to present online?"

Hans Van de Water (The Floor is Yours)

How to present your research or project to an audience that can only see you through the webcam? In this webinar you will learn to present your message with impact.

The following elements will be discussed:

- *What makes presenting online different?*
- *How can you find a clear message, without going into too much detail?*
- *How do you keep the attention of your audience?*
- *What do you say in your first minute and how to close?*
- *Can you use the same slides for online presentations?*
- *How to deliver your presentation in front of the webcam?*

About the trainer:

Hans Van de Water is a presentation trainer and expert in scientific communication. With his company The Floor is Yours he has trained thousands of researchers in the techniques necessary to prepare and give effective presentations. Hans is also the founder of the Battle of the Scientists, a contest that gives researchers the opportunity to present their work to primary school children. More information on thefloorisyours.eu.

<https://thefloorisyours.be/en/workshop-presenting-online/>

The events of the IAU ECA Online Discourse Series are proudly brought to the community of early career astronomers by the Organizing Committee of the IAU EC Working Group of Junior Members:

Maria Drozdovskaya & Fatoumata Kebe (co-Chairs)

Camilla Danielski, Christopher Moore, Eleanor Sansom, Gaël Buldgen, Sudeshna Boro Saikia, Themiyá Nanayakkara

https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/310/

Join us via your favorite social media platform!

<https://twitter.com/IAUJuniorMember>

<https://www.facebook.com/IAUJuniorMember/>

<https://www.instagram.com/iaujuniormember/>

Find useful resources and connect with the IAU JM community on our dedicated Slack workspace!

https://join.slack.com/t/iaujuniormembers/shared_invite/zt-i2607vqs-nOYWAKVFn42fLNwNEZqcVg (link active up to and include November 5th)

Become part of our community and apply to be an IAU Junior Member in the 2020 call!

<https://www.iau.org/news/announcements/detail/ann20035/?lang>