

Inter-Division IV/V WG on Chemically Peculiar and Related Stars

CHAIRPERSON: Werner W. Weiss

A meeting of the IAU Working Group on Chemically Peculiar and Related Stars was held in Sydney on July 16th, 2003. The focus of the business session was on possible effects on our WG due to plans for restructuring the IAU. Working Groups are to be evaluated every 3 years and in general, will be limited to a period of 3 or 6 years.

Thanks to the very efficient WG Newsletter (<http://www.astro.uwo.ca/apn> or <http://www.eso.org/apn>), it was felt that the scientific activities of the community and the communication between the members does not depend much on the existence of an IAU-WG. However, if it comes to raising funds for a conference, a workshop or any activities requiring contacts to governmental or other administrative bodies, it certainly is advantageous to have an international organisation as a background. This Peculiar Newsletter was founded 1978 in Vienna as a communication tool for the European Ap-WG. The first editors were H. Hensberge, Gh. Deridder and W. van Rensbergen who stayed on this duty until early 1992, except of Deridder who left the team in mid-1983.

As a consequence, it was requested that the Working Group on Chemically Peculiar and Related Stars be promoted from a Commission WG (presently of Commission 45–Stellar Classification) to the Division level. In one of its last sessions in Sydney, the IAU Executive Committee granted this request and decided that our WG will be now hosted by two Divisions: Division IV (Stars) and Division V (Variable Stars).

The very positive attitude of the IAU Executive Committee towards our WG was also reflected by the approval of IAU-Symposium 224 on “The A-Star Puzzle” in July 2004, at High Tatras, Slovakia.

In the same spirit, the Working Group sponsored or participated in the organisation of the following conferences:

- International Conference on “Magnetic Fields in O, B, and A Stars: Origin and Connection to Pulsation, Rotation and Mass Loss”, Mmabatho, November 2002, South Africa.
- International Conference on “Magnetic Stars”, Nizhnij Arkhyz, Special Astrophysical Observatory, August 2003, Russia.
- International Conference on “Element stratification in stars–40 years of atomic diffusion”, Mons, June 2005, France.
- Workshop on “ATLAS12 and Related Codes”, Trieste, July 2005, Italy.

While not organized by the WG, the idea was born out of discussions started at IAU-Symp. 224, to propose a conference on “Convection in Astrophysics”, which will be IAU Symp. 329, Prague, August 2006, Czech Republic.

A similar proposal of the WG for a Symposium during the GA 2006 on “Chemically Peculiar Stars”, unfortunately, did not receive support.

The Vienna Atomic Line Data base (VALD, <http://ams.astro.univie.ac.at/vald/>) developed as a successful multi-countries cooperation to a much demanded tool for spectroscopists under the patronage of the Working Group.

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