

# IAU General Assembly 2009 Press Kit

As per 3.8.2009 19:30 CEST

## About the IAU Press Office

### Press Facilities

The IAU will operate a Press Office (R1.14) on all weekdays from 9:00 to 18:00, a Press Conference Room (R1.13), and a Press Interview Room (R1.12) on the ground floor of the SulAmérica Convention Center. It will have hard-wired and wireless internet hubs for the convenience of reporters who are filing to a deadline. The Interview Room is available to the media for one-on-one interviews, and is reserved and scheduled as requests are received. The Press Office will also have a fixed-net telephone, printer, access to copying machine etc. We encourage Public Information Officers and scientists to provide hard copies of press releases, background brochures, visuals etc. The IAU Press Office will update a wall with newspaper clippings.

The phone numbers of the press office are: +55-21-3293-6754, +55-21-3293-6755

The Press Office will be closed during the weekend 8-9 August.

### Staff

Lars Lindberg Christensen  
IAU Press Officer  
email: lars@eso.org  
Cell phone: +49 173 38 72 621

Cassio Leandro dal Ri Barbosa  
Local Press, NOC Press Contact  
email: cassio@univap.br  
Cell phone: +55 12 8168 9998

Raquel Yumi Shida  
IAU Press Officer Deputy, IAU Webmaster  
email: rshida@eso.org  
Cell phone: +55 21 71648810

Lars Holm Nielsen  
IAU Web Developer/technology  
email: lnielsen@eso.org  
Cell phone: +55 21 7164 9122

Pedro Russo  
IYA2009 Coordinator  
email: prusso@eso.org  
Cell Phone: +49 176 61 100 211

Mariana Barrosa  
IAU/IYA2009 Assistant  
email: mbarrosa@eso.org  
Cell phone: +49 163 603 2151

Laura Ventura  
ESO outreach officer  
email: lventura@eso.org

## Press briefings and other interesting events

A series of press briefings on a range of topics are anticipated. A rough plan for some of the press briefings that have already received a slot is outlined below. All times are in BST (Brazil Standard Time UTC-03:00). Note: Several briefings are still at the planning stage and are not listed here. More information as it becomes available at:

<http://www.astronomy2009.com.br/mediapress.html>

### Tuesday 4 August

10:30 Press briefing: General information about the Opening Ceremony.

Participants:

- IAU President Catherine Cesarsky
- IAU General Secretary Karel van der Hucht
- National Organising Committee Chair Daniela Lazzaro
- Patricia Gruber, Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation

12:00 Press briefing: The Gruber Prize to three distinguished cosmologists

Participants:

- Executive Vice President The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation Sarah Hreha
- Patricia Gruber, Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation
- Prize recipient Wendy Freedman
- Prize recipient Robert Kennicutt
- Member of the IAU Gruber Prize advisory board, Ron Ekers

14:00 Opening Ceremony, including talks by the Brazilian Minister of Science, Sergio Rezende, the Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Sergio Cabral, the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Eduardo Paes, and the official announcement of the Gruber Award.

### Thursday 6 August

12:00 Press briefing: The International Year of Astronomy 2009

Participants:

- Catherine Cesarsky, Chair of the IAU IYA2009 Working Group (CEA, France)
- Pedro Russo, IYA2009 Coordinator (IAU, ESO)
- Lars Lindberg Christensen, IYA2009 Secretariat Manager (ESO, IAU)
- Pedro Lessa, UNESCO

### Friday 7 August

11:00 Press briefing: The impact of new stars' violent early stages on young planetary atmospheres and the genesis of life

Participants:

- Edward Guinan, Villanova University, USA
- Manfred Cuntz, University of Texas Arlington, USA
- Rocco Mancinelli, Search for Extraterrestrial Life (SETI) Institute, USA
- Cesar Bertucci, Instituto de Astronomia y Fisica del Espacio, Argentina
- Jean-Mathias Griessmeier, ASTRON, The Netherlands

### Monday 10 August

10:00 Press briefing: General update on the General Assembly.

19:30 IAU press dinner (no host, split bill).

### Tuesday 11 August

11:30 Press briefing (topic TBD)

### Thursday 13 August

14:00-17:30 Closing Ceremony.

Voting on Resolutions on:

- IAU Strategic Plan: Astronomy for the Developing World
- Current best estimates of astronomical constants
- The Second Realization of the International Celestial Reference Frame
- Supporting Women in Astronomy

- Defence of the night sky and the right to starlight
- 18:00 Press briefing: Concluding the General Assembly

## Invited Discourses

The four Invited Discourses are overview talks given by highly eminent scientists in their fields.

### Wednesday 5 August

18:00 Invited Discourse 1

Franco Pacini: The Legacies of Galileo

The Invited Discourse 1 will also be the topic of a public talk in Rio.

### Thursday 6 August

18:00 Invited Discourse 2

James F. Bell III: Water on Planets

### Monday 10 August

18:00 Invited Discourse 3

Simon D.M. White: Evolution of Structure in the Universe

### Tuesday 11 August

18:00 Invited Discourse 4

Maria Teresa Ruiz: Do Low-Luminosity Stars Matter?

## International Year of Astronomy 2009 Activities during the IAU GA

### Monday, 3rd August

Special Session 2: The International Year of Astronomy 2009

### Tuesday, 4th August

Special Session 2: The International Year of Astronomy 2009

### Wednesday, 5th August

Special Session 2: The International Year of Astronomy 2009

### Thursday, 6th August

Special Session 4: Astronomy Education between Past and Future

11:00 – 12:30: Young Astronomers Meeting (Room 1.15)

12:00: Press briefing The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (Room 1.13)

14:00 – 15:30: Commission 55 business meeting (Room 5)

16:00 – 16:30: NASA IYA2009 informal meeting (Room 1.15)

16:30 – 17:30: The Cosmic Detective, book signing by the author Dr. Mani Bhaumik (Room 1.15)

### Friday, 7th August

Special Session 4: Astronomy Education between Past and Future

09:00 – 12:30: IYA2009 Executive Committee Working Group Business Meeting (By invitation only – Room 1.15)

14:00 – 15:30: Galileoscope meeting (Room 1.15)

16:00 – 17:30: Galileo Teacher Training Program meeting (Room 1.15)

17:45 – 19:00: Eyes on the Skies Screening (Plenary Room – 2.1) Saturday,

### 8th August and Sunday, 9th August

4th International Universe Awareness (UNAWA) workshop

Meeting Venue: CBPF – Brazilian Center for Physics Research Rua Dr. Xavier Sigaud, 150 – Urca – Rio de Janeiro – RJ – Brazil – 22290–180

### Monday, 10th August

Special Session 4: Astronomy Education between Past and Future

11:00 – 12:30: Galilean Satellites Phemu09 Meeting (Room 1.15)

14:00 – 15:30: She Is an Astronomer Meeting (Room 1.15)

16:00 – 17:00: Star Peace Summit (Room 1.15)

### **Tuesday, 11th August**

Special Session 9: Marking the 400th Anniversary of Kepler's "Astronomia Nova"

11:00 – 12:30: Developing Astronomy Globally Summit (Room 1.15)

14:00 – 15:30: Galilean Nights meeting (Room 1.15)

16:00 – 17:00: 100 Hours of Astronomy Awards Ceremony (Room R 2.09)

18:00 – 19:30: Planetarium Shows: "Two pieces of glass" and "ALMA: In search of our cosmic origins" Venue: Planetarium Gavea, Rio de Janeiro

### **Wednesday, 12th August**

Special Session 9: Marking the 400th Anniversary of Kepler's "Astronomia Nova"

12:30 – 13:30: 400 Years of the Telescope Screening (Plenary Room – 2.1)

17:30 – 19:00: Blast! Screening (Plenary Room – 2.1)

### **Thursday, 13th August**

Special Session 9: Marking the 400th Anniversary of Kepler's "Astronomia Nova"

### **Friday, 14th August**

Special Session 9: Marking the 400th Anniversary of Kepler's "Astronomia Nova"

## **Other events**

Screenings of several astronomy movies will take place in the Main Room:

- Eyes on the Skies
- 400 Years of Telescope
- Blast!

Two IYA2009 photo exhibitions will be on display: The World at Night and From Earth to the Universe. They will be accessible to the public during the weekend.

There will also be book-signing sessions organised by the publishers of several IYA2009 related books.

## **Links**

- IAU: <http://www.iau.org/>
- General Assembly: <http://www.astronomy2009.com.br>

## **Newspaper**

Information and programme updates will be published in the daily IAU XXVII General Assembly newspaper Estrela D'Alva. Prof. Dr. João Evangelista Steiner from University of São Paulo is the Editor-in-Chief.

## List of interesting papers

### Posters

1. **The Young Magnetic Sun and the Influence of its Strong XUV Emissions on Planets and Life**, Guinan, Symposium 264 R2.3 (press conference, see above)
2. Exoplanets Environments to Harbour Extremophile Life, Janot-Pacheco, Symposium 264 R2.3
3. The metal poor end of the Lithium plateau, Sbordone, Symposium 265 R2.2
4. Open Cluster ASCC21 as Probable Birth Place of Neutron Star Geminga, Bobylev, Joint Discussion 3, R2.3

### Monday 3th Aug

1. A Multi-Wavelength View of Some of the New Gamma-Ray Pulsars, Roberts, 17:10, JD3

### Tuesday 4th Aug

1. PSR J0737–3039A/B: Six Years of Seeing Double, Breton, 11:25, Rm2, JD3
2. Astronomy and media - rewards and problems, Brahic, 12:00, R2.5

### Wednesday, 5th Aug

1. Delivery of water during formation and evolution of the Earth, Morbidelli, 11:00, R2.2, S263
2. Origin of Earth's Water, Meech, 11:30, R2.2, S263
3. **Ammonia Reported on Saturn's Moon Titan**; the Case for Cryovolcanism, Nelson, 16:45, R2.2, S263 (press release, see Lopes below)

### Thursday, 6th Aug

1. Diffuse Light in the Virgo Cluster, Mihos, 9:00, R2.9, JD2
2. **Formation and Evolution of Planetary Atmospheres**, Bertucci, 11:25, R2.3, S264 (press conference, see above)
3. Haumea and her children, Brown, 14:00, R2.2, S263
4. The Starlight Reserve, the New Zealand Experience, Hearnshaw, 14:30, R2.5, SpS4
5. Jet-launching in action: new lessons from the Galactic Center black hole Sgr A\*, Falcke, 15:00, Rm2, JD7
6. **HI in Void Galaxies**: probing the lowest density environments, van der Hulst, 16:45, R2.1, S262 (press release)
7. **Biological Damage due to Photospheric, Chromospheric and Flare Radiation in the Environments of F, G, K, and M-type Main-Sequence Stars**, Cuntz, 16:50, R2.3, S264 (press conference, see above)
8. Kappa Ceti: An Analogue of the Sun When Life Arose on Earth, Porto de Mello, 17:05, R2.3, S264
9. Intergalactic Globular Clusters, West, 17:15, R2.9, JD2

### Friday, 7th Aug

1. **UV radiation and planetary biological evolution**, Mancinelli, 9:25, R2.3, S264 (press conference, see above)
2. **Geology of Titan: latest results from Cassini**, Lopes, 16:45, R2.2, S263 (press release, see Nelsen above)

### Monday, 10th Aug

1. The very First Stars – formation and re-ionization of the Universe, Bromm, 12:00, R2.2
2. The current climate-water cycle at the Mars Phoenix landing site, Lemmon, 12:20, R2.6, SpS6
3. QSONG: Supermassive Black Holes of Quasars at World's End, Im, 14:50, R2.1, S267
4. The search for low-mass exoplanets, Mayor, 16:00, R2.6, SpS6
5. Observations and Modelling of transiting exoplanets, Tinetti, 17:00, R2.6, SpS6

### Tuesday, 11th Aug

1. Akari ice mapping of star forming regions, Noble, 11:50, Rm 3, Special Session 7
2. Star forming galaxies at  $z > 6$  and reionization, Bunker, 12:15, Rm4, JD12

3. The cosmic chemical evolution as seen by the most explosive events in the Universe, Savaglio, 16:00, R2.2, S265  
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**Wednesday, 12th Aug**

1. Co-evolution of galaxies and black holes, Heckman, 9:00, R2.1, S267

**Friday, 14th Aug**

1. If the Sun is so quite, why is the Earth ringing? A comparison between two solar minimum intervals, Gibson, 12:10, Rm4, JD16
2. Two fundamental questions concerning AGN that must be settled, Burbidge, 17:00, R2.1, S267

## List of registered press

1. Mark Barry, N/A
2. Ricardo Zorzeto, Pesquisa FAPESP
3. Dirk Lorenzen, Deutschlandfunk, German Public Radio
4. Genevive Bjorn, freelance
5. Rick Fienberg, Sky&Telescope
6. Ram Prasad Humagai, Gorkhapatra National Daily
7. Dave Finley, NRAO
8. Alison Goddard, The Economist
9. Maria Cruz, Science magazine
10. Carsten Thureau, ZDF German TV
11. Philippe Guinet, ZDF German TV
12. Claus Ruegner, ZDF German TV
13. Pedro Rodrigues, ZDF German TV
14. Marcelo Samuel Berman, Diario do Planalto
15. Marcos Rogério Calil, Climatempo e TV Climatempo
16. Fernanda Calipo, Climatempo e TV Climatempo
17. Mani Bhaumik, Cosmotoons
18. Tatiana Chekhova, Cosmotoons
19. Pedro Felipe da Cruz, O Arssatao
20. Egwuagwu Okoro, AXIS MAGAZINE
21. Kalu Ogo Tim, AXIS MAGAZINE
22. Henk-Sjoerd Oosterhoff, NCRV Radio Dutch National Radio and Television
23. Roberta Tziolas Jansen Machado, O Globo
24. Carlos Albuquerque, O Globo
25. Emilie Martin, Ciel et Espace
26. Meghie de Sousa Rodrigues, Jornal Imprensa
27. Yudhijit Bhattacharjee, Science magazine
28. Peter Moon, Editora Globo SA
29. Ari Hirayama, The Asahi Shimbun, Sao Paulo Bureau
30. Cezar Katsumi Hirashima, The Asahi Shimbun, Sao Paulo Bureau
31. Daisy Levy, Oswald de Souza Consult /e do Centro de Convenções Sul America
32. Rafael Garcia, Folha de Sao Paulo
33. Antonio Marinho de Carvalho, O Globo
34. Chen Kaipei, China Central Television (CCTV)
35. Yang Xuemei, China Central Television (CCTV)
36. Eduardo de Diego, Agencia EFE
37. Carlos Moreno, Agencia EFE
38. Antonia Lacerda, Agencia EFE
39. Ronaldo Souza Soares, Revista Veja
40. Felipe da Silveira Werneck, O Estado de Sao Paulo