

Brief Biographical Notes of the Candidates for the 2026 – 2028 Governing Council and Auditors of the Hellenic Astronomical Society

I. PRESIDENT

Δέσποινα Χατζηδημητρίου – Despina Hatzidimitriou



Despina Hatzidimitriou is Professor of Observational Astrophysics at the Department of Physics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, where she has served since 2009. She began her academic career as a lecturer at the Department of Physics, University of Crete, in 1993. Over the past three decades, she has also held adjunct research positions at the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH/IESL) and the National Observatory of Athens (NOA/IAASARS). She obtained her BSc from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (1984) and her PhD from the School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh (1989). She subsequently held postdoctoral positions at the Anglo-Australian Observatory and the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, before joining the University of Crete. Prof. Hatzidimitriou has held several leadership roles within the International Astronomical Union, including President and Vice-President of Division VII and Chair of Commission 37. Since 2025, she has served as President of the Hellenic Astronomical Society. Her research focuses on stellar physics, star clusters, binary systems (particularly X-ray binaries), stellar populations, and the dynamics and evolution of Local Group galaxies. She is a member of the Gaia Data Processing and Analysis Consortium, where she serves as Work Package Leader in Coordination Unit 8. She has authored or co-authored over 300 publications (including 132 in refereed journals), with more than 36,000 citations (h-index: 56), and has supervised several MSc and PhD students.

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Society

II. BOARD MEMBERS

Βασίλης Αρχοντής – Vasilis Archontis	
<p>Professor in Astrophysics at the University of Ioannina. He obtained his BSc in Physics in 1997 from the University of Thessaloniki and his PhD from the Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen in 2000. After completing his thesis he was a postdoc at the University of La Laguna / IAC and the University of St Andrews, UK. In 2011-2016, he was awarded with the Royal Society Fellowship. In 2019, he became Associate Professor in Solar Physics at the University of St. Andrews, and in 2021 he became Honorary Lecturer. He has served as PI in many major grants and awards, including an ERC synergy grant (2020-now). His main research interests are related to solar-stellar physics, Sun-Earth connection, MHD, reconnection, plasma jets and eruptive activity in stars. He has served as a member in various committees and at the Danish Astronomical Society, the STFC (UK), the IAU and recently at HELASET (2024-2026).</p>	
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II. BOARD MEMBERS

Άλκηστις Ζ. Μπονάου – Alceste Z. Bonanos	
	<p>I am a Research Director of the Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing (IAASARS) at the National Observatory of Athens (NOA). I received my B.A. in Physics and Astronomy from Wellesley College (USA) in 2000, my M.A. in Astronomy from Harvard University (USA) in 2002 and my PhD in Astronomy from Harvard University (USA) in 2005. I was a Vera Rubin Fellow at the Carnegie Institution for Science (USA) from 2005-2008, and a Giacconi Fellow at the Space Telescope Science Institute (USA) from 2008-2009. In September 2009, I joined IAASARS as an assistant researcher and since December 2022 am a Research Director. In 2011, I was awarded the greek L'Oreal-UNESCO prize for Women in Science and in 2017 I was awarded funding from the European Research Council (ERC Consolidator grant). Since 2009, I have attracted >3.5M€ in competitive scientific grants and projects from the European Space Agency (ESA). I have ~90 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, >4500 references and an h-index=37. I have supervised 8 PhD theses and currently is supervisor of 1 PhD student. My research interests are observational astrophysics, with a focus on the extragalactic distance scale and massive stars, in particular the physical parameters and mass-loss mechanisms of massive stars, as well as stellar variability and near-Earth objects.</p>
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II. BOARD MEMBERS

Ιωάννης Γκόλιας – Ioannis Gkolias	
	<p>Ioannis' multidisciplinary scientific path started from the Department of Physics of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) where he obtained his BSc in Physics in 2010 and MSc in Computational Physics in 2013. He earned his PhD in Applied Mathematics in 2017 from the University of Rome "Tor Vergata" under a Marie Curie fellowship. He continued his research career for three years at the Department of Aerospace Science and Technology of the Polytechnic University of Milan. In 2020 he returned to the Department of Physics of the Aristotle University, where he initially worked as a post-doctoral researcher, and since 2022, he has been serving as an Assistant Professor in the section of Astrophysics, Astronomy, and Mechanics. He has contributed to the writing of 47 scientific publications (h-index 15), including 26 in peer-reviewed international journals, 17 in conference proceedings, 2 chapters in books and 2 Scientific Reports. He is a member of the International Astronomical Union and the Hellenic Astronomical Society, and he is involved in the working groups of the DART and Hera space missions. Currently, in addition to his duties as an assistant professor, he is responsible for the operational readiness of the three astronomical stations of AUTH, he is a member of the National Space Surveillance Committee (GR-SST), he is contributing to the development of an Optical Ground Station at the Holomon Observatory, and he participates in the mission design of AUTH's cubesat PeakSat.</p>
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II. BOARD MEMBERS

Ιωάννης Λιοδάκης – Ioannis Liodakis	
	<p>Ioannis Liodakis is an associate researcher at the Institute of Astrophysics – FORTH. He received his BSc (2012) and MSc (2014) in Physics by the University of Patras. He obtained his PhD from the University of Crete in 2017 for which he was awarded the Best PhD Thesis from the Hellenic Astronomical Society, the Best Young Researcher Award by the University of Crete which is awarded across all disciplines as well as the Kavli Fellowship at the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (KIPAC). In 2020 he moved as a FINCA fellow at the Finnish Centre for Astronomy with ESO (FINCA) and was named Gruber fellow by the Gruber Foundation and IAU. He was a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) fellow (2021) and received the Best young Cretan researcher award from the Region of Crete in 2022. In 2023 he moved to the Marshall Space Flight Center as a NASA Postdoctoral fellow and in 2024 he moved to the Institute of Astrophysics as an associate researcher and ERC group leader. He has received the “Prize in Memory of Academician Ioannis N. Xanthakis” for the Academy of Athens in 2023, the Bruno Rossi prize as part of IXPE team (2024), the Alexander von Humboldt fellowship for Experienced researchers (2024), and the Mercator fellowship for the DFG research unit FOR 5195 “Relativistic Jets in Active Galaxies” (2026). His work focuses on the multimessenger emission from accreting supermassive black holes. He has more than 300 publications, 26 first author and more than 20 publications with students. His publications have accumulated 10876 citations with an h-index 53 (google scholar as of April 2026).</p>
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II. BOARD MEMBERS

Αθανάσιος Χ. Τζέμος – **Athanasios C. Tzemos**




Associate Researcher at the Research Center for Astronomy and Applied Mathematics (RCAAM) of the Academy of Athens since September 2023. He received his B.Sc. in Physics in 2006, his M.Sc. in Theoretical, Computational Physics and Astrophysics in 2009, and his PhD in Theoretical Physics in 2013, all from the Department of Physics of the University of Patras. He worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher (2016–2023) at the RCAAM of the Academy of Athens under the supervision of Academician G. Contopoulos. His research interests lie in the field of Nonlinear Dynamics and its applications to Astronomy and Quantum Mechanics, including Order and Chaos in Galactic Dynamics, construction of approximate integrals of motion in galactic models, classical and quantum chaos (both in standard and Bohmian Quantum Mechanics), the relation between Chaos and Quantum Entanglement, open Quantum Systems, and Stochastic Quantum Dynamics. He has extensive experience in symbolic and numerical computation, with long-term use of Maple, as well as Python and Fortran. He has published 33 articles in peer-reviewed journals (22 as first author) and has participated in numerous international conferences, summer schools, and workshops including invited talks and contributed presentations. He serves as a referee for nine international journals in the field of Theoretical and Mathematical Physics. During the period June 2024 – December 2025, he was the Principal Investigator of the research project of the Research Committee of the Academy of Athens “Study of Order and Chaos in Quantum Dynamical Systems.” He has supervised one undergraduate (B.Sc.) and one postgraduate (M.Sc.) thesis. He speaks English and German.

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II. BOARD MEMBERS

Νεκτάριος Βλαχάκης – Nektarios Vlahakis	
	<p>Professor at the Department of Physics of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). He was born in Agios Nikolaos, Crete on 4/2/1971, received his B.Sc. in Physics from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (1992), his M.Sc. in Physics from the University of Crete, Greece (1994) and his Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the same University (1998). He has been a McCormick fellow at the Enrico Fermi Institute, Univ. of Chicago, U.S.A. (2000-2002) and a Research Associate at the Astronomy and Astrophysics Dept., Univ. of Chicago, U.S.A. (2002-2003). Since 2003 he is a faculty member at the Department of Physics of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, and became Full Professor in 2020. His scientific interests include magnetohydrodynamics of astrophysical jets and accretions disks, AGN, GRBs, Pulsar winds, plasma equilibrium and stability. He has authored two textbooks and more than 60 peer-reviewed scientific papers that have been cited more than 4000 times by other researchers. He is a member of the Hellenic Astronomical Society (Hel.A.S.), the European Astronomical Society (EAS), and the International Astronomical Union (IAU).</p>
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I. Εξελεγκτική Επιτροπή

Αντώνης Γεωργακάκης – Antonis Georgakakis



Antonis Georgakakis is Research Director at Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing of the National Observatory of Athens. He obtained his BSc in Physics from the University of Athens in 1995, his MSc in Physics from the University of Crete in 1995 and his PhD in Astrophysics from the Imperial College London (UK) in 1998. He was Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Birmingham, UK (1998-2000), at the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics of the National Observatory of Athens (2002-2005) and at the Astrophysics group at the Imperial College London (2005-2006). He was a “Marie Curie” fellow at the Astrophysics group at the Imperial College London during 2006-2008. In 2008 he joined the Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing as an Associate Researcher. From 2011 until 2016 he was on leave of absence at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching (Germany). Dr. Georgakakis has served as treasurer of the Hellenic Astronomical Society for the period 2018 to 2022. His research focuses on observational extragalactic astrophysics, large scale structure and environment of Active Galactic Nuclei, growth of black holes at the centers of galaxies across cosmic time, composition of the diffuse extragalactic background, physical conditions under which black holes in galaxies grow their mass. He has authored or co-authored over 170 refereed publications with more than 17,000 citations (h-index: 55), and has supervised 4 PhD students.

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Dr Konstantinos Nektarios Gourgouliatos



Dr Gourgouliatos is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Patras, which he joined as an Assistant Professor in 2019. Prior to that, he was an Assistant Professor at Durham University. As of September 2025, he serves as Head of the Laboratory of Universe Sciences in the Department of Physics at the University of Patras.

He received his B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Patras in 2004. He completed Part III of the Mathematical Tripos at the Department of Applied Mathematics of the University of Cambridge in 2005, and obtained his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2009. He received numerous scholarships during his undergraduate, master's, and PhD studies, most notably the "Isaac Newton Scholarship for Astronomy and Gravitation" from the University of Cambridge during his PhD.

He has held research associate positions at Purdue University, McGill University as a Centre for Research in Astrophysics of Quebec Fellow, and the University of Leeds. He has also held an Honorary Fellowship at Durham University and a Research Visitor position at the University of Leeds. He has given invited seminars and talk at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Columbia University, the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology at Stanford University, Princeton University, and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, among others.

His research interests lie in theoretical and computational astrophysics, with a focus on relativistic magnetohydrodynamics, particularly its applications to neutron stars and astrophysical jets. His major contributions include the identification of irregular rotational behaviour in strongly magnetised neutron stars, as well as numerical simulations and theoretical interpretations of magnetic field evolution in neutron stars and the propagation of astrophysical jets. These results have been published in *Nature*, *Nature Astronomy*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *Physical Review Letters*.

Overall, he has published 67 refereed papers, and his work has received approximately 2,000 citations. He has supervised one PhD and more than 15 master's theses, and he is currently supervising three PhD students.

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Ιωσήφ Παπαδάκης – Iossif Papadakis	
<p>Iossif Papadakis is Professor of Astrophysics at the Department of Physics, University of Crete, where he has served since 2003. He obtained his BSc from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (1989) and his PhD from the Queen Mary College, University of London (1993). He subsequently held postdoctoral positions at Southampton University, at the University of Crete and IESL at FORTH, before joining the Physics Department at the University of Crete as Assistant Professor.</p> <p>Prof. Papadakis has held several leadership roles within COSPAR, including chair of Sub-commission E1, chair of Commission E, and member of the COSPAR Council. His research focuses on Extragalactic Astrophysics, with main emphasis on active galaxies related studies, in particular in the X-rays.</p> <p>He has authored or co-authored over 300 publications (including 195 in refereed journals), with more than 10,500 citations (h-index: 55), and has supervised several undergraduate, MSc and PhD students.</p>	
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