

**Brief Biographical Notes of the Candidates for the 2024 – 2026 Governing Council and
Auditors of the Hellenic Astronomical Society**

I. PRESIDENT

Δέσποινα Χατζηδημητρίου – Despina Hatzidimitriou




Despina Hatzidimitriou is a Professor of Observational Astrophysics at the Department of Physics of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, which she joined in 2009. She started her academic career as a lecturer at the Department of Physics of the University of Crete in 1993. Over the past 30 years she has also affiliated as an adjunct researcher for varying periods with the Foundation for Research and Technology in Crete (FORTH/IESL) and with the National Observatory of Athens (NOA/IAASARS). She got her BSc from the National

and Kapodistrian University of Athens in 1984 and her PhD from the School of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Edinburgh in 1989. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Anglo-Australian Observatory and at the Institute of Astronomy of the University of Cambridge, before joining the University of Crete.

She has served as President of Division VII of the International Astronomical Union, Vice-President of Division VII and Chair of Commission 37 of the International Astronomical Union. Her research interests include stellar physics, star clusters, binaries (mainly X-ray binaries), stellar populations, dynamics and evolution of local group galaxies. She is a current member (and WP leader in Coordinator Unit 8) of Gaia DPAC. She has authored or co-authored about 300 papers (130 papers in refereed journals), with more than 26000 citations (h-index 51). She has supervised or co-supervised several MSc and PhD students.

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| Work Address: | National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Physics, University Campus, 15784, Zografou, Athens, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30-210-7276721 |
| Email: | deshatzi@phys.uoa.gr |
| Webpage: | http://scholar.uoa.gr/deshatzi |

II. BOARD MEMBERS

| Ιωάννης Αντωνιάδης – John Antoniadis | |
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|  | <p>Associate researcher at the Institute of Astrophysics - FORTH. He obtained his BSc in Physics in 2009 from the University of Thessaloniki and his PhD from the University of Bonn in 2013. After completing his thesis he was a postdoc at the Max-Planck-Institute for Radioastronomy (MPIfR) during 2013-14 before moving to the Univ. of Toronto (Canada) as a Dunlap Fellow. He returned to Bonn as a postdoc at MPIfR until 2018 and then he became a Research Fellow at MPIfR and a lecturer at the Argelander Institute for Astronomy, University of Bonn. He joined IA-FORTH in 2021. His research interests are on the formation and evolution of compact stars, supernovae, binary neutron stars, radio pulsars, tests of fundamental physics, equation-of-state of nuclear matter.</p> |
| Work Address: | Institute of Astrophysics - FORTH, GR-71003, Heraklion, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30 2810 39-4266 |
| Email: | john@ia.forth.gr |
| Webpage: | https://www.ia.forth.gr/people/antoniadis |

Βασίλης Αρχοντής – Vasilis Archontis



He graduated from the Department of Physics, University of Thessaloniki and he received a B.Sc. in Physics in 1997. In the period 1997-2000, he awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship to study at the Niels Bohr Institute, from where he received his PhD on: 'The generation and 3D evolution of magnetic fields in stars'. He worked as Postdoctoral Research Associate (2000-2004) at the Institute of Astrophysics in Tenerife and at the Mathematical Institute, University of St Andrews, UK (2005-2011). He was awarded with a number of fellowships and grants, such as the Royal Astronomical Society Grant (2008), the STFC Advanced Research Fellowship (2011-2015), the Royal Society Research Fellowship (2011-2019), the ERC Synergy Grant: 'The Whole Sun' (2021-2026). In 2016, he was elected as Assistant Professor at the University of St Andrews, Mathematical Institute. In 2022, he was elected as Professor in Astrophysics, at the Department of Physics, University of Ioannina and as Honorary Lecturer at the University of St Andrews. He has published more than 50 refereed papers, with ~ 2800 citations and h-index ~ 30. He has supervised more than 15 Master and PhD students. He has been member of several ISSI workshops and EU research networks. He has been member of the Danish, UK and Greek astronomical society. He has given more than 35 invited talk in international conferences and meetings.

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| Work Address: | Department of Physics, University of Ioannina, GR-45110 Ioannina |
| Phone No.: | +30 6972341924 |
| Email: | archontis@uoi.gr |
| Webpage: | https://physics.uoi.gr/en/prosopiko/archontis-vasileios/ |

Ιωάννης Γκόλιας – Ioannis Gkolias



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 39 scientific publications (h-index 12), including 21 in peer-reviewed international journals, 16 in conference proceedings, and 2 chapters in books. 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.

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| Work Address: | Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 54124, Thessaloniki, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30 2310 998062 |
| Email: | igkoli@physics.auth.gr |
| Webpage: | https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ioannis-Gkolias |

Ηλίας Κουλουρίδης - Elias Koulouridis



Elias Koulouridis earned his Physics Degree in 2003, followed by an MSc in Theoretical, Computational Physics, and Astrophysics in 2005, and a PhD in Astrophysics from the University of Patras in 2009. In 2010, he received a Postdoctoral State Foundation Scholarship. He served as a postdoctoral researcher and later as a fellow at the National Astronomical Observatory of Athens until 2015. From 2015 to 2019, he held a senior postdoctoral researcher position in the Astrophysics department at CEA/Saclay in France. In 2019, he joined IAASARS/NOA as an Associate

Researcher. Additionally, he chairs the Time Allocation Committee for the Aristarchos 2.3m Telescope at Helmos Observatory. He is an active member of major international collaborations and missions, including the XXL survey, the Athena X-ray mission, and Euclid. His primary expertise is in X-ray and Optical Astronomy, with research interests focused on Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN), the Large Scale Structure of the Universe, galaxy clusters, and cosmology. He has authored over 55 papers in high-impact international peer-reviewed journals, accumulating more than 1400 citations.

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| Work Address: | Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing, National Observatory of Athens, I. Metaxa & Vas. Pavlou str., GR-15236, Penteli, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30 2103490874 |
| Email: | ekoulouridis@noa.gr |
| Webpage: | https://www.astro.noa.gr/en/staff/research-personnel/koulouridis-elias-3/ |

Γεώργιος Μπαλάσης – George Balassis



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 a BSc in Physics from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) in 1995, followed by an MSc by Research with Distinction in Geophysics from the University of Edinburgh (UK) in 1997, an MSc in Condensed Matter Physics in 1998 and a PhD in Applied Electromagnetism in 2001 both from the NKUA. From 2002 to 2006 I was the specialist for global electromagnetic induction in the CHAMP satellite team at GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam (Germany). I

returned to Greece in 2006 as an Assistant Researcher of the former Institute for Space Applications and Remote Sensing (ISARS) at NOA, where I have been responsible for the establishment, installation and operation of the Hellenic GeoMagnetic Array (ENIGMA) and for its access to the SuperMAG worldwide collaboration of ground-based magnetometers. ENIGMA is the first magnetometer station array that has ever operated in Greece. My research interests lie mainly in space physics (Sun-Earth connection, dynamics of the magnetosphere, space weather, geomagnetic field), and complex systems. I am also involved in magnetic satellite missions, and in particular I am a member of the Advisory Board of the Data, Innovation, and Science Cluster (DISC) of the European Space Agency (ESA) Swarm mission, member of the Swarm Mission Validation & Data Quality Team and Principal Investigator of the Swarm Mission Science Exploration. I have published 1 book, 6 book chapters and 85+ refereed papers, which have received ~2800 citations (h-index=31). I serve as an Editor for Magnetosphere and Space Plasma Physics of *Annales Geophysicae*, a journal of the European Geosciences Union (EGU), Editor of *Frontiers in Astronomy and Space Sciences* and Editor of *Atmosphere*.

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| Work Address: | Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing, National Observatory of Athens, I. Metaxa & Vas. Pavlou str., GR-15236, Penteli, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30 2108109185 |
| Email: | gbalasis@noa.gr |
| Webpage: | http://members.noa.gr/gbalasis/ |

Θανάσης Παπαϊωάννου – Athanasios Papaioannou



Athanasios Papaioannou is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing (IAASARS) of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA). He obtained his B. Sc. in Physics in 2005, a M.Sc. focusing on Nuclear and Particle Physics in 2008 and his Ph.D. in Physics in 2012, from the Department of Physics of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). Since then he worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher at IAASARS/NOA and at NKUA. He has been a Visiting Researcher at the Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (Germany), the University of Turku (Finland), the Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism,

Ionosphere and Radiowave Propagation by N.V. Pushkov RAS (IZMIRAN) (Russia) the Universitat de Barcelona (Spain) and the European Space Astronomy Center (Spain). In 2018 he was elected as an Associate Researcher and in 2021 he was promoted to a Senior Researcher at IAASARS/NOA. His research interests lie mainly in Space Physics, Heliosphysics and Cosmic rays (CRs) of both galactic (GCRs) and solar (SCRs) origin. He has published 67 peer reviewed papers, which have received 2180+ citations (h-index=29). Currently, he serves as the Treasurer of the Hellenic Astronomical Society (Hel.A.S) (2022-), a Vice-chair of COSPAR's sub-Commission D1: The Heliosphere (2022-), as the Section Editorial Board Member for the Solar System - Universe journal, (2021-) and as an Associate Editor for Frontiers Space Physics (2023-). He was the recipient of a Postdoctoral State Foundation Scholarship (2017-2018), a Liaison Officer, European Geosciences Union (EGU) Solar-Terrestrial Division (2014-2019), the Team Leader of the HEROIC ISSI International Team (2018-2020), an Associate Editor of a Topical Issue for J. Space Weather & Space Climate (2017) and an invited NASA Reviewer Panellist (2019). He has been a reviewer of Research Proposals for the NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP) (2018 -), the National Science Foundation of Poland (2023) and FONDECYT Chile (2018). He is a member of the Modelling & Data Analysis Working Group (MADAWG) for the European Space Agency (ESA) Solar Orbiter mission and the Coordinator of the Horizon Europe SPEARHEAD project (2024-2026).

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| Work Address: | Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing, National Observatory of Athens, I. Metaxa & Vas. Pavlou str., GR-15236, Penteli, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30-210 810 9182 |
| Email: | atpapaio@astro.noa.gr |
| Webpage: | https://members.noa.gr/atpapaio/ |

Μαρία Πετροπούλου – Maria Petropoulou



Assistant Professor at the Department of Physics of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). She received her B.Sc. in Physics in 2008 and her PhD degree in Physics in 2014, both from the Department of Physics of NKUA. She received the prize for the Best PhD Thesis from the Hellenic Astronomical Society in 2015 and the Fondation MERAC in 2016. She worked as an Einstein Fellow (2013-2016) and a Postdoctoral Research Associate (2016-2017) at the Department of Physics and Astronomy of Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA. She then moved to the Department of Astrophysical Sciences at Princeton University, New Jersey, USA, where she worked as Lyman Jr. Spitzer Postdoctoral Fellow (2017-2020). She joined the Department of Physics of NKUA in 2020 as Assistant Professor. Her research interests lie in the field of high-energy and multi-messenger astrophysics and include radiative processes in astrophysical plasmas, particle acceleration processes, cosmic-ray and neutrino production processes. In 2021 she received the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science for her research, and since 2022 she has been the PI of the research program "UNTRAPHOB" which is funded by HFRI. She is also member of the science working groups for the proposed X-ray missions STROBE-X and HEX-P. She has published 89 articles in peer-reviewed journals and her work has received ~3,300 citations (h-index 31). She has given more than 30 invited talks in international conferences and workshops.

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| Work Address: | National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Physics, University Campus, 15784, Zografou, Athens, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30 2107276894 |
| Email: | mpetropo@phys.uoa.gr |
| Webpage: | http://scholar.uoa.gr/mpetropo/ , https://mpetropoulou-astro.com/ |

III. AUDITORS

| Γεώργιος Βασιλόπουλος – Georgios Vasilopoulos | |
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|  | <p>I work in the field of observational astrophysics studying accretion onto compact objects. For my graduate studies I worked at the Max-Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (MPE) in Garching, Germany and I obtained my PhD from the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in 2018. I then worked as a post-doctoral researcher at Yale University (USA) and at the Strasbourg Observatory (France). Since 2023 I have been working at the University of Athens as a PI of a research project called “ASTRAPE” which is funded by HFRI. Throughout my career I have been working with data from some of the largest and most successful space missions, while obtaining observing time and securing funding through competitive proposals from NASA and ESA missions. I have mentored and supported several undergraduate and graduate students and have published more than 60 papers in high impact peer-reviewed journals.</p> |
| Work Address: | National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Physics, University Campus, 15784, Zografou, Athens, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30 2107276816 |
| Email: | gevas@phys.uoa.gr |
| Webpage: | https://www.gevas-astro.com/ |

Παναγιώτης Μπούμης – Panayiotis (Panos) Boumis



Panos Boumis obtained his BSc in Physics (1994) from the University of Patras. In 1997 he obtained his PhD in Astrophysics from the University of Manchester (U.K.), where he worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher (1997-1998). From 1999 to 2002, he was a Postdoctoral Researcher at FORTH and a visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Crete (Physics Dept.). In 2002 he was elected as Assistant Researcher at the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (IAA) of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA), while in 2006 he got promoted to Associate Researcher, in 2010 to Senior Researcher and in

2017 to Research Director. He is the instrumentation manager of the 2.3m 'Aristarchos' telescope, while he founded and he is the P.I. of the Optical and Electronics laboratories at IAASARS.

His research interests are: Observational Astrophysics, with emphasis in Galactic astronomy and to the design and development of scientific instruments for telescopes (especially for the 2.3m Aristarchos telescope). Study of the latest stages of massive stars evolution as well as of the morphology and dynamics of the Interstellar Medium (ISM), through the Planetary Nebulae (PNe), Supernova Remnants (SNRs), Nebulae of Luminous Blue Variables Stars (LBVs). Study of exoplanets. Extensive observational experience (more than 800 nights of observing in many optical telescopes around the world).

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| Work Address: | Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing, National Observatory of Athens, I. Metaxa & Vas. Pavlou str., GR-15236, Penteli, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30 2108109862 |
| Email: | ptb@astro.noa.gr |
| Webpage: | https://www.astro.noa.gr/en/staff/research-personnel/boumis-panayotis/ |

Tanio Diaz Santos



Tanio Diaz Santos obtained his BSc in Physics in 2003 as well as his MSc in 2005 from Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain). In 2009 he was awarded his PhD in Astrophysics from Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) with a thesis entitled “A Mid-infrared Study of Local Luminous Infrared Galaxies”. From 2009 until 2011 he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Dept. of Physics of the Univ. of Crete (Greece) before moving to the Spitzer Science Center at the California Institute of Technology (USA) as a postdoctoral researcher during 2011-2014. He was an ALMA-CONICYT fellow at the Nucleo de Astronomia, Universidad Diego Portales (Chile) from 2014 until 2019 as well as a CAS-CONICYT Fellow from 2019 until 2020. He was elected at IA-FORTH as Associate Researcher in 2020. He obtained tenure and was promoted to Senior Researcher in 2023. His research interests are in star formation in galaxies at low and high-z; Nuclear and extended multi-wavelength characterization of starburst and luminous infrared galaxies (LIRGs) at all spatial scales: from giant molecular clouds and dusty tori to large-scale kpc emission and the circum-galactic medium; Galaxy interactions and mergers, and their evolution with redshift; Interstellar medium and environment in (U)LIRGs and galaxy compact groups ; AGN activity and its connection with star formation processes; Modeling of the spectral energy distributions of star-forming regions, galaxies and AGNs. He has published over 170 refereed papers which has received ~8500 citations (h-index=51)

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|----------------------|---|
| Work Address: | Institute of Astrophysics - FORTH, GR-71003, Heraklion, Greece |
| Phone No.: | +30 2810 39-4234 |
| Email: | tanio@ia.forth.gr |
| Webpage: | https://www.ia.forth.gr/people/Diaz-Santos |