

Editorial

Letter from the Astronomy & Astrophysics Board of Directors Future editorial structure of A&A

Considering

- the rapid growth of the number of submitted papers,
- the proceeding specialization of subfields in astronomy,
- and the wish to involve more countries in the editorial process,

the Board of Directors of A&A has decided to change the editorial structure of the journal. The new structure will consist of an Editor-in-Chief, a Letter Editor and seven Scientific Editors. One of the Scientific Editors will act as the Associate Editor-in-Chief. The new system is expected to be effective starting January 2004.

In the new system the Editor-in-Chief will receive all submitted regular papers and will assign a Scientific Editor to each paper. The Scientific Editor will be responsible for the refereeing process and will decide on whether the paper should be accepted or not. The final responsibility for acceptance lies with the Editor-in-Chief. The Associate Editor-in-Chief will assist the Editor-in-Chief, e.g., by taking over his/her duties during times of absence. Letters will be submitted directly to the Letter Editor, who will have the same duties as in the present system. All papers will be handled in a web-based peer review system. The final language editing will be done at the central office.

As of 1 January 2004, Dr. H. J. Habing will retire and Dr. C. Bertout will continue as the Editor-in-Chief. Dr. P. Schneider will continue as Letter Editor. Herewith, we invite applications for the seven positions of Scientific Editors.

The Scientific Editors are expected to have a broad knowledge of astronomy and astrophysics and to have expertise in one or several of the main sub-fields of A&A, i.e. cosmology, extragalactic astronomy, galactic structure and stellar populations, interstellar and circumstellar matter, stellar structure and evolution, stellar atmospheres, the Sun, planets and planetary systems. Candidates should have a strong record of published research in astronomy and astrophysics, should have experience as a referee and/or journal editor, and be prepared to commit the time needed to handle the peer review of up to three hundred papers per year. Limited support for office equipment and secretarial help as well as an annual indemnity will be provided to the Scientific Editors. The initial term of appointment is three years.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, a list of publications, and a concise cover letter that summarizes the candidate's qualifications and reasons for seeking a Scientific Editor position. Possible support from the home institute for the task should also be discussed. Applications should preferably be e-mailed or sent/faxed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors:

Prof. Aage Sandqvist
Stockholm Observatory
SCFAB-AlbaNova
SE-106 91 Stockholm
Sweden
email: aage@astro.su.se
Fax: +46 8 5537 8510

Applications received by 31 January 2003 will receive full consideration.

Informal inquiries about the positions may be directed by e-mail to Aage Sandqvist.

On behalf of the Board of Directors
Aage Sandqvist