

FOREWORD

This special issue is dedicated to the SAI 2020 prizes for outstanding Italian Astronomers: P. Tacchini, G. Lorenzoni, G. Horn d'Arturo and G. Bignami. These prizes were awarded to young scientists for their valuable contributions to Modern Astrophysics. In this difficult pandemic time, together with the SAI President, Roberto Buonanno, we decided to publish their research projects in "Memorie della SAI," in order to highlight and promote their work in the scientific community. Judging from the enthusiasm of young researchers in publishing in our Journal, this special issue may become a regular biennial feature.

This special issue has also been a unique chance for me - as new Editor in Chief of "Memorie della SAI." I am proud to take part in the history of one of the oldest Astrophysical journals in the world, first published as "Memorie della Società degli Spettroscopisti Italiani" in 1872.

The realization of a new version of "Memorie della SAI" was only possible thanks to Valentina Pagnan (Serra Editorial Offices) and the new Editorial Board: Maria Teresa Menna and Marco Castellani (Assistant Editors), Diego Paris and Stefano Gallozzi (Editorial Software Developers), and Giuliana Giobbi (Secretariat). The INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Rome (Monte Porzio Catone) is the new office of our Editorial Board and is kindly providing us all necessary logistic support.

Together with a new Editorial board we will also have new Science Associate Editors, who will guarantee a high-level and wide-range scientific expertise. Here is a list of its members in alphabetical order: Maria Teresa Botticella (INAF- Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte), Marcella Brusa (Università degli Studi di Bologna), Stefano Covino (INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera), Valentina D'Orazi (INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova), Alessandro Papitto (INAF-Osservatorio di Roma, Monte Porzio Catone), Linda Podio (INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri), Stefania Salvadori (Università degli Studi di Firenze), Federico Tosi (INAF-Istituto di Astrofisica e Planetologia Spaziali), Grazia Umara (INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania), Elena Valenti (European Southern Observatory).

Thanks to the active collaboration between the Science Associate Editors and the Editorial Board, we will attempt to transform "Memorie della SAI" into a peer-reviewed Journal. This can be a delicate transition and requires effort and support from the whole National and International Scientific Community.

It is a real pleasure for me to give my thanks to Piercarlo Bonifacio, Editor in Chief for the last twenty years. He did an invaluable job, and I hope I will be able to follow His lead. I am really grateful to Laura Abrami, Chiara Doz and Sergio Monai, the previous Editorial Board of "Memorie della SAI". Without their constant support and their crucial advice, we could not have published this volume. I am sure they will still play a fundamental role in the future.

Giuliana Fiorentino