

Preface

When first hearing about the Vienna Workshop on the Future of Asteroseismology, many of you will have asked yourself the same questions: Why discuss the future now, when only the first results from space asteroseismology are available? Isn't it odd to celebrate the 65th birthday of a renowned asteroseismologist who is far from retirement at this point?

The answer to the first question is easy: at the outset of this meeting, MOST was already in space and COROT was soon to be. Therefore, the next projects must already be thought about in order not to lose valuable time. The answer to the second question, however, is hidden in a rather long story which the participants of this workshop have now been told. In short, a long chain of events made one of the organizers make a joke, resulting in a full hall of variable-star researchers singing Happy Birthday for Michel Breger's 65th birthday when in reality it was only his 58th. So, at his real 65th birthday, it was time to make up to Michel.

Most of us attend meetings with lots of scientific ideas, and come back filled with many more, inspired by the discussions with fellow scientists. Moreover, such discussions do obviously contribute to shaping the future of asteroseismology, and because Michel loves discussions it seemed only logical to focus this meeting on discussions. Consequently, this workshop was not organized in the traditional manner, with several review talks followed by large numbers of contributed scientific presentations that leave little or no time for reflection, but rather by trying to address the big questions and hence draw the big picture. Therefore, these proceedings also contain transcripts of all the discussions, in an attempt to reflect the positive and friendly spirit of this meeting and its lively atmosphere.

Michel Breger's enormous reputation in asteroseismology is demonstrated by the fact that in response to the SOC trying to collect as many big names in the field as possible *you all came*. Our first and foremost thanks therefore go to the participants of this meeting who came to celebrate Michel. The LOC did a wonderful job running this workshop, with many of them going much further with their help than was asked. These proceedings benefited both from the contributions of many referees, conference participants and external specialists, who provided insightful comments, and from the help of the previous and present production editors, Wolfgang Zima and Paul Beck. The photographs included in these proceedings were kindly provided by Katrien Kolenberg, Konstanze Zwintz, Tony Kaye, Dennis Stello and by Victoria Antoci, who also helped with their processing.

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