

TRANSACTIONS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
VOLUME XXVIII
REPORTS ON
ASTRONOMY

COVER ILLUSTRATION

ASTRONOMERS USING ESO'S EXOPLANET HUNTER HARPS HAVE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A RICH HAUL OF MORE THAN 50 NEW EXOPLANETS, INCLUDING 16 SUPER-EARTHS, ONE OF WHICH ORBITS AT THE EDGE OF THE HABITABLE ZONE OF ITS STAR. BY STUDYING ALL THE HARPS PLANETS FOUND SO FAR, THE TEAM HAS FOUND THAT ABOUT 40% OF STARS SIMILAR TO THE SUN HAVE AT LEAST ONE PLANET LIGHTER THAN SATURN. (*Source: European Southern Observatory, <http://www.eso.org/public/news/eso1134/>*)

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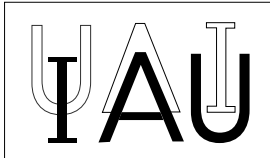
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Preface

As background information to the IAU XXVIII General Assembly in Beijing 20–31 August 2012, these Transactions provide an account of what has been happening within the IAU through the words of the Presidents and Chairs of the Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups which make up the working levels of the IAU. These were completed towards the end of 2011 and provide a narrative record of activities over the triennium 2009–2011. For a variety of reasons, not all the Commissions and Working Groups submitted reports.

It is my pleasure to thank those IAU Division and Commission Presidents and Working & Program Group chairpersons who have provided these reports and the staff of the IAU Secretariat, Mme Vivien Reuter and Mme Jana Žilová, for their continued invaluable assistance in making the IAU function. We look forward to a most memorable XXVIII General Assembly in the historic city of Beijing.

Ian F. Corbett
IAU General Secretary
Paris, January 2012