

SUBJECT	IAU General Assembly 2018 / Meeting with INAF & Tiziana Venturi	
DATE / PLACE	26/08/2018 – 04/09/2018	Vienna, Austria / Bologna, Italy
PARTICIPANT	Michael Garrett	Names of other relevant participants:  See report below
REASON FOR PARTICIPATION	Networking with leaders of worldwide radio astronomy	
WEBPAGE OF THE EVENT	<a href="https://astronomy2018.univie.ac.at/">https://astronomy2018.univie.ac.at/</a>	

I attended the IAU GA 2018 in Vienna. This was an excellent opportunity to network with leaders in the field, including other European radio astronomy observatory directors. In addition, I enjoyed one-to-one discussions with Prof. H.J. van Langevelde (former JIVE director), Prof van Dishoek (incoming IAU president), Glen Langston (NSF, USA), Wim van Driel (CRAF), Mark Allen (CDS), Bernie Fanaroff (SKA SA), Jocelyn Bell-Burnell (Oxford), Douglas Bock (CASS), Anthony Brown (Leiden), Bo Peng (FAST), Andrew Siemion (Breakthrough Listen/Berkeley), Harry van de Laan (Utrecht), Martin Dominik (St. Andrews), Leonid Gurvits (JIVE), George Heald (CSIRO), Rob Ivison (ESO), Renee Kraan-Korteweg (UCT), and Bong Won Sohn (KVN).

Such contacts provide important input and feedback, as the SPOOR working group tries to understand and explore the ways in which the wider needs of community drive the future coordination of European radio astronomy. In addition to these very useful discussions, I also attended several IAU sessions, in particular the IAU Centenary session which had a strong focus on strategy and policy elements.

On 4th of September, I met with Dr. Tiziana Venturi, the Director of the Inst. of Radio Astronomy (IRA) in Bologna, Italy. I was able to participate in the SPOOR telecon meeting from IRA and then engaged Dr. Venturi on discussions related to SPOOR and her vision for the future. It was very useful to have these discussions at a one-one-one level. This provides important input to further SPOOR activities in 2020.