

## Editorial

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Many of us started our research in the gamma-ray burst field in the 1990's, and we still remember the Hunstville GRB Symposium in 1991 where the first BATSE results were presented showing the isotropic distribution of the bursts, confirming the earlier hints provided by the *VENERA* satellites, besides the first “accurate” GRB localizations by WATCH onboard *Granat*. And then, 15 yrs ago, *BeppoSAX* allowed the detection of the first GRB X-ray afterglow, leading to the detection of afterglows at other wavelengths (optical, radio) in the years to come, probing the cosmological distance scale. We do appreciate that Jerry Fishman, Niels Lund and Raphael Aptekar could make it to this Conference. They inspired the work from many other colleagues and friends too who are also here in the audience.

But now we should concentrate in the future. There are still many other open issues which we still should address, regarding both theoretical and observational aspects: prompt emission and afterglow physics, progenitors (including Pop III stars), host galaxies, multi messenger information, etc. The manuscripts published in this Volume of the European Astronomical Society Conference Series are the fruit of the Fall 2012 Gamma-ray Burst Symposium held in Málaga (Spain) on 8-12 Oct., 2012.

The Scientific Organizing Committee prepared a very comprehensive scientific program which covered many fields. We heard from the new technical developments on ground and on the future experiments and missions, like the forthcoming *Lomonosov* satellite carrying the Ultra-Fast Flash Observatory (UFFO) experiment onboard, which will be launched end of this year. The research in the field is still very exciting for the new generation of young astronomers, which we expect will be as enthusiastic as we were 15 yr ago, when the first GRB afterglow was discovered.

The Symposium was organized by both the Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía of the Spanish Research Council (IAA-CSIC) and the Department of System Engineering and Automatics at Universidad de Málaga (UMA), the Ewha Womans University in Seoul and the LeCospa Center in Taiwan. We want to thank the members of the Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC): S. Brandt, A.J. Castro-Tirado (chair), V. Connaughton, S. Covino, F. Daigne, K. Hurley,

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N. Kawai, S. Klose, K. Page, S.B. Pandey, I.H. Park, G.F. Smoot, V. Sokolov and T. Piran for arranging an excellent scientific programme, and thanks all the chairman/chairwomen who accepted to lead the 14 sessions. We also want to express our gratitude to the members of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC): A. Castro, R. Cunniffe, J. Gorosabel (chair), M. Jelinek, O. Lara-Gil, S. Guziy, V. Muñoz-Fernández, C. Pérez del Pulgar, M. Pérez-Ramírez, R. Sánchez-Ramírez and J.C. Tello. We thank Irina Guziy for designing the nice Conference announcement poster, Oscar Lara-Gil for acting as a careful website ([grb2012.iaa.es](http://grb2012.iaa.es)) curator also taking care of the 741 pictures (thanks to all contributors!) available to all attendants, and Sergey Guziy for editing the “official” post-conference videoclip (25 min 49 s) (also available at the site) depicting not only the Conference itself but also the many social events carried out during the unforgettable five days.

Finally, some of us (AJCT & JGU) managed a long-awaited dream: the first GRB Symposium ever host in Spain. Moreover, the event was hosted in “Málaga-Costa del Sol” region, which includes Marbella, 50 km away from Málaga, AJCT’s home town. This region is the product of the mixing of many civilizations. Málaga was funded by the Phoenicians more than 3.000 yr ago and Carthaginense, Romans, Moorish and Jewish populated this land over the last two millennia. Mathematics and astronomy amongst other disciplines flourished in Málaga (and in all over Al-Andalus, Andalucia) 1.000 yr ago, thanks to the Moorish heritage, which was revealed on Wednesday afternoon during the guided visit to Málaga and the Conference Dinner near the Moorish Gibralfaro Castle. Visiting to Granada or Tanger (Morocco, across Gibraltar Straight) on Friday (the whole day!) led the participants to check this splendour.

Marbella (meaning Beautiful Sea) was also a Phoenician settlement 2.700 years ago. 45 years ago Marbella was an agricultural town with a mining industry and some 10.000 inhabitants. Today there are more than 100.000 inhabitants with many of them being from all over the world, hence Marbella is recognized nowadays as a “Universal City” and probably the most famous turistic destination all over Spain. In this respect, the Local Organizing Committee tried to complete the Scientific Program with social events for attendants and accompanying persons to get acquainted around Marbella and we do believe that all participants enjoyed the staying too (in spite of the non-optimal wifi connection within the Auditorium which allowed attendants to concentrate on the talks; not a bad idea after all). Swimming at night in the sea was also possible due to the mild temperatures in October, even after the Flamenco Dance dinner and show on Thursday!

To conclude, we want to express our deepest thanks to both the Marbella Town Hall and Hotel Spa Senator Marbella (wonderful Jacuzzi free of charge for participants!) for a charming atmosphere all over, an to the University of Málaga, the Spanish Research Council, the Fundación Málaga, Sungkyunkwan University in Korea and the LeCospa Center in Taiwan for their support to arrange this Symposium.

Thanks / Gracias / 감사합니다.

A.J. Castro-Tirado, J. Gorosabel, and I.H. Park, in Málaga, on 21 March 2013.