



IUPAP Women in Physics Working Group 5: Women in Physics

Report 2023-2024
by
Prajval Shastri, Chair
Apriel Hodari, Vice-Chair

1. The Celebration of 25 years of the WG5 at the IUPAP GA 2024

As per the plan stated in the WG5 report 2023-2024, the celebration of 25 years of WG5 was organised as part of the IUPAP General Assembly, 2024. It took place as an afternoon event on the 11 October 2024, in the International Conference Hall of the Convention Centre, Haikou, China, and was chaired by the Chair of WG5, Lilia Meza-Montes.

A highlight of the programme was a set of fascinating reminiscences by some of the stalwarts involved in the founding of WG5 and in the launching of its activities, including Marcia Barbosa (Brasil), Beverly Hartline (USA, who came online), Ling An Wu (China) and Jacquelyn Beamon-Kiene (American Physical Society, ret'd.). Kuijuan Jin then gave an overview of the Women in Physics activities in China. This was followed by presentations that summarised the Women in Physics Working Group activities and their impact on the physics enterprise as a whole in the different regions of the world, viz., Africa (Igle Gledhill), Asia (Prajval Shastri) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Lilia Meza-Montes). Prajval Shastri, Chair-designate of WG5, discussed the path forward for the WG5. She emphasised that an approach of evidence-based mitigative interventions that addressed the root causes of gender inequity with an intersectional lens was the imperative. Gillian Butcher, Gender Champion of IUPAP and Vice-President Designate at large for diversity, equity and inclusion spoke about the broadening of IUPAP policies for inclusion and diversity going forward, how efforts in this direction had already begun with the first workshop on intersectionality in the ICWIP 2017 which was an initiative by WG5 member Prajval Shastri. WG5 was already making efforts towards a broader definition of inclusion and diversity which segued into the IUPAP strategic plan and was also an important component of the external review of IUPAP. She called for retaining the WG5 as an entity in its current form, while adding structures that could advise the IUPAP Executive Council to mitigate inequality with respect to all marginalised groups. A lively discussion with the audience followed, which included several young physicists from China. The forum ended with the concluding remarks of the IUPAP President Silvina Ponce Dawson.

2. Membership of the WG5

Anisa Qamar, Pakistan and Farida Fassi, Morocco, have been confirmed as WG5 representatives on C13 and C14 respectively, and therefore Associate Members of those commissions for 2025-2027). The process of having a WG5 contact for WG21 is underway. The current membership of WG5 is as follows:

IUPAP WG5 Members

Chair: Prajval Shastri, India

Vice-Chair: Apriel Kimaada Hodari, USA

Members:

Marjetka Conradi, Slovenia

Farida Fassi, Morocco (Associate member of C14 as WG5 representative)

Rosario González-Férez, Spain

David Hutchinson, New Zealand

Lilia Meza-Montes, Mexico (past Chair)

Mara Fernanda Parisoto, Brasil

Ruwen Peng, China, Beijing

Anisa Qamar, Pakistan (Associate member of C13 as WG5 representative)

Associate members:

Niloofer Jokar, IAPS

Vandana Nanal, India

Gillian Butcher, UK (IUPAP Vice-president at large for equity, diversity and inclusion)

3. Preparations for organisation of ICWIP 2027

The WG5 decided to organise the next ICWIP as a hybrid conference in 2027 and the call for proposals to host the ICWIP was sent out accordingly. The final decision on the host of the conference is under process. Meanwhile fund-raising efforts for the conference have been initiated. The circumstances for fund-raising towards gender equity efforts within the USA have turned extremely challenging in 2025, and therefore WG5 will expand its fund-raising scope very significantly to address this challenge.

4. Transfer of administrative support from the APS

Since the APS has ended its administrative support of the WG5, efforts are underway to form working agreements with several alternative physics organizations. WG5 is committed to maintaining its stellar record of creating community among women physicists across the globe.