

## Preface

The Joint European and National Astronomy Meeting 2008 (JENAM 2008) was held from September 8-12, 2008 in Vienna, Austria, as the joint meeting of the Austrian Society of Astronomy and Astrophysics (ÖGAA), the Astronomische Gesellschaft (AG), and the European Astronomical Society (EAS). It hosted nine symposia under the overall topic "New Challenges To European Astronomy". This special volume of Communications in Asteroseismology holds the proceedings of the JENAM 2008 Symposium No 4: "Asteroseismology and Stellar Evolution". The Asteroseismology and Stellar Evolution Symposium has been generously sponsored by the ÖGAA, by the HELAS Forum (an activity of the European Helio- and Asteroseismology Network, initiative funded by the European Commission since April 1st, 2006, as a Co-ordination Action under its Sixth Framework Programme, FP6), and by the Kulturabteilung der Stadt Wien (Magistratsabteilung 7).

The Symposium program was put together by the Scientific Organizing Committee consisting of Conny Aerts (University of Leuven, Belgium), Annie Baglin (Observatoire de Paris, France), Wolfgang Glatzel (University of Göttingen, Germany), Gerald Handler (University of Vienna, Austria, Co-convenor), Uli Heber (University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany), Katrien Kolenberg (University of Vienna, Austria), Suzanna Randall (European Southern Observatory) and Sonja Schuh (University of Göttingen, Germany, Convenor). Out of a total of 60 oral and poster contributions, 15 contributed talks were selected for presentation during the three half-day session program, with ample time for questions and discussion. There also was an opportunity to introduce the poster contributions during 2-min oral presentations.

The scientific topics covered diverse object classes divided into *Stochastically excited pulsators (main sequence, red giants, AGB supergiants)*, *Heat-driven pulsators along the main sequence*, and *Compact pulsators*, as well as additional topics that we have summarized as contributions on *Eruptive variable and binary stars*, and contributions presenting *Methods and tools*. The three session topics were introduced by two invited review speakers per field. In the first session, Jadwiga Daszynska-Daszkiewicz summarized current "Challenges for stellar pulsation and evolution theory", and Konstanze Zwintz reported "A preliminary glimpse on CoRoT results and expectations" (for Eric Michel), together giving an overview of the observational and theoretical status of the field. Anne Thoul and Oleg Kochukhov presented the state of the art in "Asteroseismology of B stars" and "Asteroseismology of chemically peculiar stars", respectively, in the second session, highlighting the hot issues in understanding and interpreting the pulsational behaviour of these groups. The stellar evolution aspect was given special consideration in "Asteroseismology and evolution of EHB stars" by Roy Østensen and "Asteroseismology and evolution of GW Vir stars" by Pierre-Oliver Quirion in the concluding third session.

A dedicated audience (on average 45 participants in each session), the excellent speakers, and our colleague Patrick Lenz who acted as the friendly and competent technician made this Symposium a highly interesting, enjoyable and successful event. We would like to thank all speakers, poster authors, and participants for coming to Vienna, the SOC and the referees for their work, the local organizers at Vienna for providing all the necessary infrastructure, and all sponsors for having made possible this event and the proceedings at hand.

Sonja Schuh and Gerald Handler  
Proceedings Editors