



**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS
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This monthly newsletter is intended to keep IUGG Members and individual scientists informed about the activities of the Union, its Associations and interdisciplinary bodies, and the actions of the IUGG Secretariat, Bureau, and Executive Committee. Past issues are posted on the IUGG [website](#). E-Journals may be forwarded to those who will benefit from the information. Your comments are welcome.

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1. Presidential reflection on the current COVID-19 situation and its future impact

The way humans live and work on planet Earth has changed profoundly over the last months. Many lives and livelihoods have been lost. Ways of working, shopping and social interactions are all vastly different for the majority of us. We do not know when the current crisis will end, or how far we will “return” to the ways things were before the pandemic.

There are a few positives. Far more heed is being paid to scientific advice, and evidence-based decision-making is becoming the norm in matters, albeit related to public health matters, such as the relaxation of lockdown measures. It is becoming clear that better preparedness, as recommended by many medical and scientific experts, would have served us better. Sharing of raw data and results, and collaborating rather than competing, can help and is helping in addressing the many challenges in fighting the pandemic and addressing its impacts. Integration of medical, physical and social sciences is essential to understand the pandemic and responses to it, across all demographics, cultures and economic states, from individual to global scales. The reduction in human activity has lowered the threshold for detection of naturally occurring ground motions, potentially improving our understanding of processing leading to a seismic response within the Earth. Our ongoing work using our science and expertise to build resilience to natural hazards, in disaster risk reduction, and to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals has provided us with tools to transfer knowledge and technology, and build capacity, which are relevant to dealing with the pandemic.



Many much wiser words than I could ever come up with have already been written about the pandemic. For example, I recommend the articles in [Nature](#), [The President of the ISC's letter to](#)

[members](#), [AGU President's commentary on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day](#), and [COSPAR's Executive Director's 'Moments of Truth'](#). Each deals with a facet of covid-19 in a slightly different way but relevant to us all.

The IUGG Bureau will meet “virtually” in the next few months to start the discussion on the way forward for our Union. We must anticipate disruptions to travel and hence to face-to-face meetings, conferences and workshops for the foreseeable future. The temptation is to try to replicate them with virtual, or a mixture of face-to-face and virtual, equivalents. These require substantial organisational and logistic efforts and hence the costs of attending will likely remain high. Yet they will not offer the same opportunities and experience. As a senior academic, this represents a distraction and an inconvenience. But for early career scientists, it is disastrous. For example, they will lose the networking opportunities that face-to-face meetings offer, and will not be able to interact with and get feedback from more experienced scientists in the conducive atmosphere a conference setting provides, without, or with fewer of, the distractions of the office. We must also anticipate a reduction in our budget. The enormous economic impact of the pandemic is likely to lead to some nations being unable or unwilling to continue as paying members. We had already noticed a trend of members querying the value of their subscription and requesting specific information to justify it.

This makes it timely to take a fresh look at our activities and how we operate, and consider what the IUGG will look like for the next few years, and even further into the future. In the post-pandemic world, should we continue our face-to-face meeting schedule as before? To what extent should we aim to include virtual participation in these meetings? Do we have the right balance between our Union, Association and Commission meetings, and meetings run by other organisations that we co-sponsor? Are these meetings of the appropriate length and held in the places where the maximum number of scientists can benefit (whether that is face-to-face or remotely)? Is the money set aside to support individuals to attend meetings the best use of those funds? Our primary means of interacting with partner organisations are through the liaisons we appoint. Do we support them adequately to undertake this task? Does this method serve us in the best possible way to foster the interactions we all need, to advance our science and use it to serve society? Would a set of bespoke approaches, dependent on the organisation, be better than a one-size-fits-all arrangement? We also have looser links with a number of related organisations. Should we scrutinise these to work out better ways of gaining mutual benefit? What about the programs and projects we support? Do we comment enough and in the right places about science policy? Are there better ways of getting our voice heard? Note that not all these questions relate directly or only to funding – most of our activities are carried out without any remuneration by those committed to serving science and the structures and organisations that support it.

Any review would be conducted openly and transparently, in conjunction with our Associations and Commissions, and changes, apart from those imposed by the pandemic, would only happen after broad consultation. We would also welcome input from individuals, including those representing our member countries. We may set up some limited time working groups to consider specific aspects of activity. We anticipate that Associations and Commissions may also be asking themselves questions similar to those posed above, and we welcome dialogue with them. However, we must bear in mind that any changes must be to the benefit of the Union as a whole.

Kathy Whaler, IUGG President

2. IUGG – The People at the Forefront (VIII)

Franz G. Kuglitsch, Executive Secretary since 2012

In 1982, I was born in Villach, Austria, to a family of avid hunters. Thus, I was well exposed to Alpine nature from early childhood, which must have been the stimulus to explore geo- and climate sciences. Unbeknownst to me at the time, Villach is also the birthplace for international research collaboration in the climate sciences. In 1985, it hosted a meeting that resulted in three international organisations – International Council for Science (ICSU), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – joining forces to bring an issue (previously confined to the pages of scientific journals and within the walls of conference rooms) onto the international policy agenda: the threat of anthropogenic climate change. The meeting turned out to be the spark that lit the fire under the world's governments, ultimately leading to the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988.



*Getting ready for hiking in the trijunction
Austria-Italy-Slovenia.*

In 2001, I moved to Vienna to study Geography and Meteorology. Through my studies and travel, I discovered my passion for climatology. Unfortunately, this subject was not yet offered as a major at the University of Vienna. In 2006, I moved to Jena, Germany, to work as a research scientist at the Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry. In 2007, I successfully defended my Master's thesis at the University of Vienna on determinations of water-use efficiency in European forest ecosystems and their changes in different climate scenarios. Later that year, I moved to Switzerland to start a doctorate in Climate Sciences at the University of Bern. While there, I met my future wife Monique, a fellow student of the Climate Sciences program. I completed my thesis about extreme temperature events in the Mediterranean Region in 2010 but remained at the University of Bern (as a postdoctoral researcher) until 2012 publishing numerous articles and book chapters about climate data homogenisation, extreme weather events, and making a foray into paleoclimate. In late 2012, I decided to leave the “traditional” academic path in order to further develop my career in science management. My wife and I moved to Potsdam, Germany, where I started my role as the IUGG Executive Secretary at



*Promoting IUGG2019 together with Fiona Darbyshire
(Chair of the IUGG2019 Local Organising Committee)
at the 2018 AOGS Annual Meeting in Honolulu, HI, USA.*

the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ). I run the IUGG Secretariat, which is the informational centre of IUGG. It implements the organisation plans, oversees the daily management of the Union, prepares business meetings, represents the Union at conferences, publishes documents, and supports the engagement of National Members in the Union and Associations activities. From the beginning, I was warmly welcomed by the IUGG family and the GFZ, which hosts the IUGG Secretariat. Besides being the IUGG Executive Secretary, I have had the chance to play many roles at the Association and Committee level, which was very helpful to familiarise myself with the complex structure of IUGG.

My personal wish for the future of IUGG is to get more early-career scientists involved in our activities. Because major research programs are usually developed in international consortia, it is most important for early-career scientists to develop an international network. Getting involved in associations, commissions, divisions, working groups, and other bodies under the umbrella of IUGG can offer great opportunities to develop careers. In return, it is important that international bodies receive the input and new perspectives of early-career scientists.

Since 2019, I have enjoyed being the IUGG Liaison Officer to the IPCC, which closes the circle and perfectly combines my major interests: science management and climate sciences.

I live with my wife Monique and my rambunctious daughter Clara (3 years) in Berlin, Germany.

3. Meetings affected by COVID-19

IAGA

The IAGA sponsored [17th Castle meeting - New Trends on Paleo, Rock and Environmental Magnetism](#) planned to be held in Tracoscan, Croatia, from 23 to 29 August 2020, will be postponed to 2021 or 2022.

IAHS

The IAHS sponsored [Summer School - Runoff Predictions in Ungauged Basins \(PUB\)](#) planned to be held in Vienna, Austria, from 6 to 10 July 2020, has been cancelled.

The IAHS sponsored [STAHY 2020](#) planned to be held in Valencia, Spain, from 24 to 25 September 2020, has been cancelled.

The IAHS sponsored [2020 International Summer School on Hydrology](#) planned to be held in Perugia, Italy, from 12 to 17 July 2020, has been postponed to 11 to 17 July 2021 to be held at the same place.

The IAHS sponsored [Hydro-JULES Summer School 2020](#) planned to be held in Wallingford, UK, from 13 to 17 July 2020, has been postponed to 12 to 16 July 2021 to be held at the same place.

IAMAS

The IAMAS sponsored [Quadrennial International Radiation Symposium](#) planned to be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 6 to 10 July 2020 has been postponed to 14 to 18 June 2021 to be held at the same place.

The IAMAS sponsored [International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation](#) planned to be held in Pune, India, from 3 to 7 August 2020 has been postponed to 2021.

The [International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Conference](#) planned to be held in Manchester, UK, from 14 to 18 September 2020 has been postponed to 12 to 16 September 2021 to be held at the same place.

The IAMAS sponsored [International Ozone Commission Quadrennial Ozone Symposium QOS2020](#) planned to be held in Seoul, Rep. of Korea, from 4 to 10 October 2020 has been postponed to 3 to 9 October 2021 to be held at the same location.

IASPEI

The IASPEI sponsored, [3rd International School on Earthquakes: Nucleation, Triggering, and Relationship With Aseismic Processes](#) planned to be held in Cargèse, Corsica, France from 5 to 9 October, has been postponed to fall 2021 to be held at the same place.

ICTP

The ICTP sponsored [3rd Summer School on Theory, Mechanisms and Hierarchical Modeling of Climate Dynamics: Tropical Oceans, ENSO, and their teleconnections](#) planned to be held in Trieste, Italy, from 3 to 14 August 2020, has been cancelled.

WLF

The [5th World Landslide Forum](#) planned to be held in Kyoto, Japan, from 2 to 6 November 2020, has been postponed to fall 2021 to be held at the same place.

4. Meeting calendar

Meetings are subject to change due to COVID-19 pandemic.

2020

June

- 10-28, ICTP, Trieste, Italy, [Joint Summer School on Modelling Tools for Sustainable Development](#)
- 15-19, GEO, Online, [GEO Virtual Symposium 2020](#)
- 21-26, IAVCEI, Online, [2020 Goldschmidt Conference](#)

July

- 12-16, AGU, JpGU, Online, [JpGU – AGU Joint Meeting 2020. For a Borderless World of Geoscience](#)
- 12-17, SCOR, Bad Honnef, Germany, [Summer School on "Physics of the Ocean"](#)

August

- 3-8, ICTP, IUGG, Legon, Ghana, [The Coastal Ocean Environment Summer School in Ghana 2020](#)
- 10-14, IAG, Boulder CO, USA, [IGS Workshop IGS 2020: Science from Earth to Space](#)
- 30-4 September, IAHS, Birmingham, UK, [11th Annual Catchment Science Summer School](#)

September

- 25-30, IAVCEI, Heraklion, Greece, [Cities on Volcanoes 11](#) (still under evaluation)
- 28-2 October, ICTP, Trieste, Italy, [Biosphere - Climate interactions in Earth System Models at global and regional scales](#)

October

- 5-9, IASPEI, Cargèse, Corsica, France, [3rd International School on Earthquakes: Nucleation, Triggering, and Relationship With Aseismic Processes](#)
- 5-11, IAGA, Kazan, Russia, [XIXth IAGA Workshop on Geomagnetic Observatory Instruments, Data Acquisition and Processing](#)
- 5-16, ICTP, IUGG, Rabat, Morocco, [African Workshop on GNSS and Space Weather](#)
- 5-16, ICTP, Trieste, Italy, [Seismic Tomography and Earth Structure](#)
- 7-9, IACS, Concepción, Chile, [Third Annual Meeting of the Chilean Cryosphere Society \(SOChiCri\)](#)
- 11-17, AGI, [Earth Science Week](#)
- 19-21, IAG, Shanghai, China, [International Workshop on GNSS Ionosphere \(IWGI2020\)](#)
- 19-21, IAG, Venice, Italy, [International DORIS Service Workshop](#)
- 19-23, SCOR, Guayaquil, Ecuador, [2020 SCOR Annual Meeting](#)
- 22-24, CODATA, Paris, France, [International FAIR Convergence Symposium and CODATA General Assembly](#)
- 26-30, IAHS, Bydgoszcz, Poland, [IAHS/ICCE International Symposium River sediment quality and quantity: environmental, geochemical and ecological perspectives](#)

- 26-30, CCTF, Sevres, France, [22nd meeting of the Consultative Committee for Time and Frequency](#)
- 26-6 November, ICTP, Addis Ababa, [Integrating climate data, predictions and projections into health planning](#)

November

- 2-6, IAG, Kunming, China, [22nd International Workshop on Laser Ranging](#)
- 9-13, ICTP, IUGG, Trieste, Italy, [Impact and Risk Relevant Climate Information from Global Scale Projections to Local Scale Climate Hazards](#)
- 17-19, ICTP, IUGG, Buenos Aires, Argentina, [Conference on Regional Climate Modeling and Extreme Events over South America: results from the CORDEX-Flagship Pilot Study](#)
- 21-25, IAGA, URSI, Kyoto, Japan, [9th VERSIM Workshop – VLF/ELF Remote Sensing of Ionospheres & Magnetospheres](#)
- 24-28, IAHS, Cotonou, Benin, [Hydrology of the Major African Basins](#)
- IAG, IUGG, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, Reference Frames in Practice Seminar
- IAMAS, IUGG, Venice, Italy, Understanding the climatic response to strong volcanic eruptions - First VolMIP meeting

December

- 13-19, IASPEI, IUGG, Kasane, Botswana, [3rd General Assembly of the African Seismological Commission](#)
- 7-11, AGU, San Francisco CA, USA, [AGU Fall Meeting 2020](#)

2021

Association Scientific Assemblies

- 15-19 February, Rotorua, New Zealand, [IAVCEI Scientific Assembly](#) (under discussion)
- 28 June – 2 July, Montpellier, France, IAHS Scientific Assembly
- 28 June – 5 July, Beijing, China, IAG Scientific Assembly
- 18-23 July, Busan, Rep. of Korea, [IACS-IAMAS-IAPSO Joint Scientific Assembly](#)
- 22-27 August, Hyderabad, India, [IAGA-IASPEI Joint Scientific Assembly](#)

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