

Editorial

With this issue, a new Editorial Board for the **Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy (JAA)** has taken charge. Thanks are in order to the previous Editorial Board members and in particular, to the Editor, Rajaram Nityananda, for their sustained efforts in seeing the journal through the past decade. Rajaram Nityananda will now act as the Associate Editor of the journal. An important development during this time has been that all the journals published by the Indian Academy of Sciences, including the JAA, are now co-produced with Springer. This brings in many advantages including the high visibility: for example, the articles appear online before actual printing; and are accessible to a large number of electronic subscribers all over the world, apart from the hard copy subscribers.

Astronomy, by its nature, is a highly collaborative enterprise involving people of many nationalities. This is reflected in the new Editorial Board. We have been fortunate to have new members with expertise in fast-growing fields like cosmology; and in new techniques like N-body simulations that make it possible to study problems involving complex astronomical systems. It is hoped that the new Editorial Board members with expertise in a variety of areas will attract manuscripts covering topics in these fields.

From now, we will implement a new way of processing the manuscripts in which a particular Editor will oversee the entire process from identifying a referee to the follow-up correspondence with the authors and the referee, until the referring process is complete. This will make full use of the diverse expertise of the Editors in the different areas. Given the breadth of modern day astronomy this is essential, and is the standard practice in most international journals in this field. It is hoped that this procedure will also shorten the processing time for the manuscripts which will benefit the authors.

In addition to fair and fast refereeing, an author looks for high visibility for a paper. Publication with Springer, and also the fact that the JAA is included on the NASA adswww archives, ensures high visibility and wide dissemination. The other benefits of publication in JAA are no page charges, and a fairly flexible page limit for the papers. I hope all these points will encourage more authors, from within India as well as from outside, to submit high-quality papers to JAA.

A new category of features is being initiated, namely, Resource Letters. These are reviews but on a focused topic, and provide useful source material for a newcomer to the field. As in the past, the journal will continue to publish Proceedings of conferences in the field, as special issues.

A major worry continues to be the rather small number of papers published in JAA. One reason for this is the small size of the astronomy community in India compared to that in the other fields of science. We hope that the above new features, plus the old strengths such as no page charges, will lead to a larger number of submission of

manuscripts and thus help us maintain this as a vital journal representing the activity in this field.

I, along with all the other members of the Editorial Board, look forward to working with authors, referees, and readers, to make JAA into a more vibrant journal.

Chanda J. Jog

Chief Editor