

Editorial

The Asteroids Comets Meteors (ACM) meeting is a premier international gathering of scientists who study small bodies. The ACM series began in 1983 in Uppsala, Sweden, as a means of bringing together different groups within the asteroid, comet, and meteor communities who do not often have the opportunity to interact. In 2008, the ACM meeting was held in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, and was the tenth in the ACM series as well as marked the 25th anniversary of the first meeting in Uppsala. ACM 2008 continued the meeting's history of successfully enabling scientific discussion and interactions between a wide range of small bodies scientists.

Special events at ACM 2008 included a Wednesday banquet featuring Roger Launius, curator of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and a Thursday baseball game at Camden Yards, where the hometown Orioles fell to the Detroit Tigers (on a home run by Brandon Inge in the top of the 6th inning). While not anticipated at the start of the week, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher's unsolicited visit to the meeting to address the attendees about NEO search issues and their importance was also an unique opportunity and event.

The generous support of NASA, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Planetary Science Institute, and Lockheed Martin, along with the support and efforts of the host Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, made ACM 2008 possible.

In all, 335 registrants from over twenty countries around the globe attended the meeting, and partial or full registration waivers were provided for 16 scientists and students. A total of 374 abstracts were presented, and these were organized

into 26 oral sessions and two poster sessions held from 14 to 18 July, 2008, at the Baltimore Inner Harbor Waterfront Marriot hotel. The morning sessions were plenary, with three of the afternoons spent in double sessions. Special sessions focused on the Carancas impact of 2007, Stardust mission results, and the continuing analysis of data from other small bodies missions. The wide scope of all session topics ranged from the transneptunian region to NEO surveys to the recent breakup of comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 3 to meteor showers, with meaningful discussions about the interrelations between all of these types of objects.

The 16 papers included in this special issue also demonstrate the scope of science discussion at ACM 2008. We thank the ACM 2008 participants for a meeting week filled with exciting and lively scientific interactions, the authors for their contributions to this special issue, and *Meteoritics & Planetary Science* for the opportunity to share some of the results from ACM 2008 with the wider community. We hope to see you, the reader, at ACM 2011 in Japan!

On behalf of the ACM 2008 Science Organizing Committee,

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