

aspect of star formation in clusters is early mass segregation as expected from N-body models, and Joana Ascenso cautioned against an interpretation without careful consideration of the low-number statistics at the high-mass end. Mark Gieles examined the short, but dramatic, phase when expulsion of natal gas from clusters results in “infant mortality”. Hans Zinnecker reminded us that probably up to half of all stars in the Milky Way form in open clusters.

Stellar populations towards the inner bulge and bar were reviewed by Fred Schuller (as seen through ISO, Spitzer, and APEX), and Livia Origlia (through characterisation by their kinematical, chemical and evolutionary properties, mainly from near-infrared spectroscopy). Towards the Galactic Centre a some-

what surprisingly high star-forming efficiency and rate are found, as evidenced either by the strong X-ray emission (Sergei Nayakshin), or by the apparent over-abundance of many young O stars in the immediate surroundings of the massive black hole at the centre of our Galaxy (Andrea Stolte), which seems to bias the IMF in this environment.

Francesco Palla concluded and summarised the workshop with an excellent ‘postlude’. With our current understanding, the ‘problem’ of star formation is probably not solved. There is a bewildering diversity of star-forming regions, and a continuum of star formation from isolation to dense clustering, on many scales, and no single theory may be able to catch and explain all relevant processes. It remains also to be seen if global scal-

ing relations, such as the relation of gas densities with star-formation rates known from other galaxies, hold in the Milky Way.

Coffee breaks including ample snacks, well-organised poster exhibitions, and delicious cocktails in the garden of our Vitacura office contributed to the friendly and stimulating atmosphere of this workshop. The conference dinner in the vineyard *Casa del Bosque* will remain a memorable event for many participants. Many thanks to Maria-Eugenia Gomez and her team who, once again, managed flawless and efficient local organisation for more than 100 guests. We are all looking forward to next year’s ESO workshop hosted in our ESO-Chile ‘science headquarters’!

Announcement of the

ESO Workshop on Large Programmes

13–15 October 2008, Garching, Germany

Over the first ten years of science operations of the VLT, 15 % of the science time has been devoted to the execution of Large Programmes. In May 2003, ESO organised a Large Programmes workshop to obtain a first assessment of the scientific return of Large Programmes. In agreement with its Observing Programmes Committee (OPC), ESO is planning a further overview of the scientific results achieved through Large Programmes conducted at the La Silla Paranal Observatory. To this effect, ESO is organising a three-day workshop in Garching.

The workshop will feature scientific presentations of all Large Programmes that have been completed since the May 2003 workshop. The teams of investigators in charge of these Large Programmes will be invited to present their scientific results, and the impact that their project has had on its particular field.

The presentations will be followed by a discussion session on the general scientific impact of ESO facilities.

One of the outcomes of the May 2003 Large Programme workshop was a suggestion that ESO store the legacy data products of Large Programmes in its science archive. This suggestion was implemented with the requirement that Large Programmes that started after 1 April 2005 deliver Advanced Data Products (ADP) to the ESO archive at the time of publication of their results in a refereed journal. The workshop will also feature a presentation of the ADP submission process and a discussion of its value to the ESO scientific community.

For further details of the workshop, please refer to <http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/LP2008/>, where the registration form can also be found. The registration deadline is 15 July 2008.

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