

# Welcome to the 13th Annual Workshop on Laser Technology and Systems for Adaptive Optics!

This year's edition of the L4AO workshop will gather over 50 participants in the Optical Center Building Auditorium of Université Laval in Québec City, Canada. Over 2 days on June 7th and 8th, 2019, students, academics and industry professionals will present and discuss progress on existing and planned laser guide star facilities around the world as well as new laser guide star-related technologies for adaptive optics applications in astronomy, space situational awareness, laser communications and beyond.

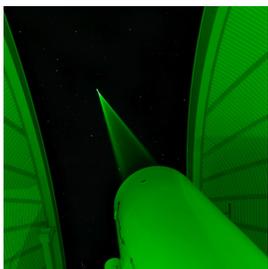
Our program aims to showcase the experience gained at telescopes around the world as well as new and innovative ideas to transform the way Laser Guide Star Adaptive Optics are used and implemented. Oral and poster presentations will be given in a friendly and supportive atmosphere where participation from the audience is not only welcome but actively encouraged. This is a workshop, not a conference, and we hope that all participants will engage with the presenters, ask questions, and share their ideas about ways to improve Laser Technology and Systems for Adaptive Optics.



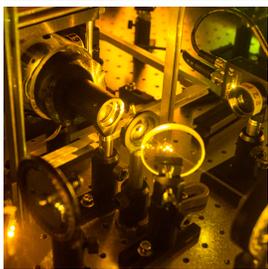
**Céline d'Orgeville  
Chair**



**Angel Otarola  
Co-Chair**



The composition of the L4AO-13 Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) aims to reflect the diversity of our community and inspire greater participation from gender diverse people and students in particular. All interested in becoming a member of the L4AO-13 SOC were given the opportunity to apply, leading to a reasonably well-balanced committee in terms of gender, professional field, seniority, and geography. We would like to encourage future workshop organisers to follow the same successful approach, as a diverse SOC will more naturally lead to a diverse workshop program.



As a result, we are pleased to report that this year women-identifying individuals will give 24% of oral presentations and present 33% of the posters listed in the program, while students make up 24% of oral presenters and 67% of poster presenters. The gender composition of our workshop participants (20% of women-identifying individuals among all registrants) also compares favourably with the 5-15% female participation that had been measured at past AO conferences and reported in the 2014 survey of the AO community world-wide<sup>1</sup>. This year more than a quarter (29%) of the L4AO workshop registrants are students, which also bodes well for the future of our field.



At this point we would like to remind each participant that for the entire duration of the workshop (including sessions and social outings) participants are bound by the code of conduct and relevant policies of the organisation(s) that they are affiliated with. All participants are expected to behave and interact with other participants in a respectful manner. No form of harassment or bullying, including sexual harassment, will be tolerated by the workshop organisers, and perceived offenders may be asked to leave the workshop at the sole discretion of the organisers. We encourage participants to approach the workshop chair, co-chair, or any member of the SOC with any concerns that they may have. All information will be treated confidentially.

Finally, we would like to thank our colleagues at Université Laval and our generous sponsors who made it possible to organise this year's workshop free of charge to all participants, including catering over the two days of the workshop and what promises to be a very pleasant workshop dinner. Our Gold sponsors' generous contribution also made it possible to offset the costs faced by a few participants with travel and carer duties at home or in Québec City while they are attending the workshop. We hope that this approach with help to make the L4AO-13 workshop more inclusive and that it will be adopted widely by future L4AO workshop and other AO conference organisers.

We are looking forward to meeting you all for two days of interesting lasers and AO discussions in La Belle Province. Enjoy the L4AO-13 workshop!

Céline d'Orgeville, L4AO-13 Chair  
Angel Otarola, L4AO-13 Co-Chair

<sup>1</sup> Celine d'Orgeville, François Rigaut, Sarah Maddison, and Elena Masciadri, "Gender equity issues in astronomy: facts, fiction, and what the adaptive optics community can do to close the gap," Proc. SPIE 9148, Adaptive Optics Systems IV, 91481V (21 July 2014); doi: 10.1117/12.2059088