

FOREWORD

To our knowledge, IAU Symposium No. 154 was the first international meeting devoted to Infrared Solar Physics. That the first meeting was an IAU symposium, rather than a colloquium or regional meeting, testifies to the explosive growth of this discipline during the last five years.

The meeting was held in Tucson, Arizona, some 80 km from the McMath-Pierce Telescope on Kitt Peak. Designed with infrared observations in mind, the McMath-Pierce Telescope has been the venue of many discoveries in infrared solar physics, such as the discovery of the 12- μm emission lines, the first direct evidence for kilogauss magnetic knots as shown by the Zeeman-sensitive iron line at 1.56 μm , and the discovery of five-minute oscillations and thermal inhomogeneity in the temperature minimum region as revealed by the 4.7- μm vibration-rotation bands of carbon monoxide. Today, the National Solar Observatory and its visiting scientists pursue a wide range of infrared studies, both at the McMath-Pierce facility and at the NSO facilities on Sacramento Peak. For all these reasons, NSO was proud to host IAU Symposium No. 154. However, these proceedings leave no doubt that infrared solar physics is now a global enterprise, with vital contributions from many countries – from the ground, from balloons, and from space. More than 95 scientists from 16 countries participated in the symposium.

We thank the members of the Scientific Organizing Committee for their successful efforts in designing the scientific program and inviting the speakers. The symposium would not have been possible without the financial support of the IAU and the organizations listed below. We have also listed at least some – those whom faulty memories can recall – of the many individuals who made important contributions to the success of the meeting and the production of these proceedings. Finally, it gives us particular pleasure to recognize the indefatigable efforts of the other members of the Local Organizing Committee, among whom Ann Barringer must be singled out as the linchpin that held us together during the frenetic days leading up to the meeting.

Douglas Rabin

John Jefferies

Charles Lindsey