

Robert Minchin: Candidate for USNC/IAU

Affiliation: USRA/SOFIA

Position/Title: Senior Scientist/FIFI-LS Instrument Scientist

PhD institution: Cardiff University, 2001

Areas of scientific interest:

- Extragalactic astronomy
- Radio astronomy
- FIR astronomy

AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- n/a

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- Group Lead for Radio Astronomy, 2015 – 2018, USRA/Arecibo Observatory
- Member (Arecibo Observatory representative), 2008 – 2010, Puerto Rico Coordinating Committee for the 2009 International Year of Astronomy

Statement:

That astronomy is international almost goes without saying. We use telescopes across the world. Many of us, myself included, work in a different country to the one we were born in. We collaborate with colleagues from around the globe.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) is the global organization for astronomers. I attended my first IAU meeting in Manchester as a PhD student, and became a member in Prague in 2006 shortly after moving to a post-doc in the US, at around the same time as I joined the AAS. As our global body, the IAU plays a vital role in representing the interests of the global astronomical community, and as such has an important role alongside national organizations like the AAS in promoting dark and radio-quiet skies and other similar activities. It also supports the Office of Astronomy for Development, leveraging the universal human interest in the night sky to support global development goals.

I would bring to the US National Committee for the IAU (USNC-IAU) my experience as an international astronomer and of working in the very different environments of Puerto Rico and California. I am also a frequent attender of AAS meetings, and may have met many of you while staffing the booths for Arecibo Observatory and now for SOFIA. You might recognize my



portrait photo as being one of the ones taken at the 'headshot booth' at our last in-person AAS meeting in 2020. If chosen to serve as a member of the USNC-IAU, I would seek to promote the activities of the IAU, and the opportunities for AAS members to get involved, as well as the importance of our global community and international collaborations to astronomy in the US.