

The New Principium Team

How many interstellar enthusiasts does it take to replace John I Davies, stalwart Principium Editor for the last ten years?

Gill Norman

Well - there's seven of us

We are willing and primed to do our best to follow in his footsteps. Big shoes to fill though! John has almost singlehandedly steered the interstellar publication Principium through choppy waters, up through Low Earth Orbit, past the Oort Cloud and across the cosmos for the last decade.

Our Executive Director Andreas Hein encapsulates our eternal thanks to John for his tireless and unwavering dedication in a separate article in this issue. I will add to this my personal gratitude for his help in the recruiting and handover work; much of the content in this issue was directed by him and his guidance will doubtless be sought after frequently for the next few issues.

I have the pleasure of introducing the new Principium team below.



Gill Norman, Editor

I've been involved with i4is since 2014 when I co-organised - with the inestimable John Davies, of course - our attendance at the 72nd World Sci-Fi Convention. It was a manic and crazy week! I have a Bachelor's degree in Maths from the University of Bath and a Master's degree in Astrophysics from Queen Mary, University of London. I ran the British Interplanetary Society (BIS) until July 2020. That was an equally manic and crazy time... My paid work these days is in more junior roles, because of severe chronic pain that flared up some years ago. It's my privilege to lead this new team of wonderful volunteers.

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Kajol Mistry,
Commissioning Editor

Kajol is studying for a Master's degree in Physics at King's College, London, UK. She's been involved with i4is since August 2023, when she volunteered at our Skateboards to Starships Summer School at the Royal Institution. She is passionate about space and science communication, and very excited to join the Principium team as Commissioning Editor! She will be searching out new topics, stories and correspondents as well as reaching out to regular contributors for future articles. If you have ideas for an article you would like to write for - or see in - a future issue of Principium, please email her. Contact details below.

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The new members of the supporting team are, in alphabetical order by surname:



Adam Hibberd,
News Editor

Adam is our i4is lead astrodynamicist and needs no introduction to our regular readers. He received a Joint Honours degree in Physics and Mathematics from Keele University in the 1980's. In the 1990's he worked as a software engineer on the European launcher program, Ariane 4, where he gained knowledge of Guidance systems for launch vehicles, with particular interest in optimum trajectory ascent to orbit software. More recently, he used those skills to invent the software tool 'Optimum Interplanetary Trajectory Software' (OITS). As a long-standing i4is volunteer, he is heading up our collation of interstellar news that goes out to our members each month on the newsletter, as well as forming that section of Principium each quarter.

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Oluwatosin Kolade,
Deputy News Editor

Tosin is studying for a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Osun State, Nigeria. His interests include Astrodynamics, Planetary Defence, and Space Mission Design and Analysis. He has interned with the International Space Elevator Consortium and the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, University of Chicago. He is the recipient of several awards and is a prolific volunteer and contributor to various engineering and space-related organisations. Tosin is responsible for seeking out relevant interstellar news and summarising it for Adam and myself.

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Sumana Mukherjee,
Layout Editor

Sumana is an Aerospace Engineer from India. She spent 7 years studying and working on interesting space projects in Europe including lunar habitat radiation shielding and lunar rover autonomous navigation with support from ESA. She has been based back in India for over 3 years now gathering experience in space education. She hosts the Hyperbolic Orbits podcast, available on YouTube and Spotify. She has extensive experience with Adobe InDesign and has taken over the layout of the magazine.

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Dhanesh Raju,
Deputy Layout Editor &
News Co-ordinator

Dhanesh has a Master's degree in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Essex, UK and Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from the KPR Institute of Engineering and Technology, India. He is an AI Research Engineer and Neural Architect and specialises in building intelligent systems that bridge human cognition and machine intelligence. He has particular interests in applying AI in sectors like healthcare, defence, and manufacturing, where intelligent systems can enhance both safety and efficiency. He is our deputy layout editor, supporting Sumana and also assisting Tosin and Adam with interstellar news gathering.

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Mike Swain,
Distribution Editor

Mike is a lifelong space enthusiast and had a long career with prestigious organisations, such as the Royal Navy and the Home Office. He is now retired and is a keen sailor, a member of the BIS, experienced in IT systems and an avid Flight Simulation hobbyist. Last year, he volunteered as Ground Crew for Aero Legends, who run Spitfire and Tiger Moth experiences from Headcorn aerodrome in Kent. He has also been involved in philanthropic and environmental activities. He takes over the distribution side of the magazine, looking after our subscribers and ensuring you all receive Principium each quarter.

We hope to get the i4is website updated with this information soon. And you will be hearing more from this new team in coming issues.

Thanks must also go to the following invaluable volunteers who are continuing in their roles:

- Patrick Mahon - Deputy Editor patrick.mahon@i4is.org.
- Carol Wright - Principal Proofreader.
- Andreas Hein - Proofreader.
- Peter Milne - Circulator of the monthly members newsletter, from which most of the Interstellar News is derived.

And finally folks, please remember that this publication is for you. Please write and tell us what you would like to see. Wishing you all the best and we look forward to hearing from you.

Gill Norman, Editor