

EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue 53 of *Principium*, the quarterly magazine of i4is, the Initiative and Institute for Interstellar Studies.

I'm sad to report that I'm stepping down as Editor because of health issues. I'm also sad to convey this message from the i4is Board of Directors:

"The i4is Board has been considering the future of *Principium*, given changes in the ways in which people receive and consume information and content. We have decided to pause the publication of *Principium* with the current issue, number 53, while we undertake a proper review of the future format, content and methods of distribution of the material currently published in *Principium*. We will announce our conclusions on the i4is website in due course. If you have any ideas and feedback about the future format, or would like to volunteer to help take *Principium* forwards into the future, please contact us at info@i4is.org. For now, we would like to thank the editorial team, past and present, and all the contributors and readers of *Principium* for their contributions and their interest."

I understand that this may be a disappointment to some; however *Principium* (or its successor) will be back in some format as soon as practically possible.

For this final issue before hiatus, we are featuring the paper *Science from the In Situ Exploration of the Proxima Centauri System*. See page 4. We are really proud of this paper, co-authored by many of our own i4is researchers and the resulting publicity is most welcome as it broadens both academic and public engagement with interstellar research.

As we went to press, we were also delighted to hear that

the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Executive Committee have approved an interstellar topic as one of the IAU Focus Meetings; see page 18.

We have our usual *Interstellar News* highlights and our regular feature *The Journals* summary contains several interstellar peer-reviewed papers from both The Journal of the British Interplanetary Society (JBIS) and *Acta Astronautica*.

We will continue our monthly newsletters (they are distributed to members initially and then sent out in arrears to non members). Please see *Working towards the real Final Frontier* on page 29 if you want to join us for the journey. It's been an honour to be a small part of that journey and I will remain involved with i4is on a much reduced capacity. With best wishes.



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The views of our writers are their own. We aim for sound science but not editorial orthodoxy.