Low-mass stars and brown dwarfs: IMF, accretion and activity

Volterra, October 17-20, 2004

Scientific Organizing Committee

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Sponsorship

INAF–Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri,
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FOREWORD

The workshop "Low-mass stars and brown dwarfs: IMF, accretion and activity" was held in Volterra (PI, Italy)- on October 17–20, 2004. About sixty participants reviewed and discussed recent developments in the field of formation and early evolution of low mass stellar and substellar objects. The meeting and format of the meeting were designed to stimulate discussion on new and exciting results.

The workshop was organised as part of a coordinated italian project designed to exploit the various expertise of a network of italian groups working on formation and early evolution of low-mass objects. The project, coordinated by Antonella Natta in Florence and with Co-Is in Cagliari (Luca Moscadelli), Napoli (Alberto Angelo Vittone), Palermo (Salvatore Sciortino), and Torino (Silvano Massaglia and Gianluigi Bodo), started in 2002 with the approval of the italian Ministery of University, Instruction and Research. At the Volterra workshop, several outstanding results achieved in the last two years by these groups were presented and discussed together with leading international experts.

The city of Volterra and the "Centro studi Santa Maria Maddalena" of the Cassa di Risparmio di Volterra have been a wonderful setting for a lively and exciting meeting. Special thanks are due to the INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri and the Italian MIUR for financial support. The workshop would have not been possible without the collaboration of Emanuela Masini, who, with the help of the Volterra Tourist Office, took care of all the practical aspects of its organization.

Leonardo Testi and Antonella Natta