

Preface

Ninth International Conference on Substorms (ICS9)

The Ninth International Conference on Substorms was held on 5–9 May 2008 at Seggau Castle, near Graz, Austria, organized by the Space Research Institute (IWF). Over 130 scientists attended the meeting. The theme of the conference was “Key elements of substorms and their coupling”. The 34 invited, 46 contributed oral and 70 poster papers were presented in the following five topical sessions:

1. Formation and instabilities of substorm current sheet/plasma sheet
2. Propagation and evolution of substorm disturbance
3. Magnetosphere-ionosphere coupling
4. Global mode of substorms
5. Substorm, as a common process in the universe

Each session was concluded with a discussion led mainly by the program committee members to highlight what has been achieved and what still needs to be studied in that particular area. Summary of the conference is reported in Nakamura and Baumjohann (2008), *Eos Trans. AGU*, 89(35), 324.

The ICS-9 Program Committee responsible for organization of the scientific sessions consisted of the following members: Wolfgang Baumjohann, Austria; Joachim Birn, USA; Eric Donovan, Canada; Karl-Heinz Glassmeier, Germany; Larry R. Lyons, USA; Tsugunobu Nagai, Japan; Rumi Nakamura, Austria (chair); Christopher J. Owen, UK; Tuija I. Pulkkinen, Finland; Alain Roux, France; Victor A. Sergeev, Russia; George L. Siscoe, USA.

This Special Issue of *Annales Geophysicae* contains refereed publications of research presented at the conference. The collection of papers shows the importance of new advanced observational capabilities both in space and on ground and the strength of the theoretical and empirical modeling at different scales to tackle the complex multi-scale problems of substorms. We would like to thank the Chief Editor Wlodek Kofman, Natascha Töpfer and Anne Klingner from the Copernicus Editorial Office, and all the reviewers as well as all the authors for their good work bringing this special issue to completion.

The conference was supported by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency, the Association of Austrian Space Industries, and the Government of Styria. Finally, we would like to thank all the participants of the meeting. It was the quality of their presentations and their contributions to the discussions that made the meeting a scientific success.

Rumi Nakamura
Topical editor

**Wolfgang Baumjohann, David G. Sibeck,
Stephen E. Milan**
Guest editors