
The Einstein Fellowship Program

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The past year has been busy for the Einstein Fellowship Program Office. In July 2011 we released the Call for Proposals for the 2012 class of Einstein Fellows—the third year of the Einstein program. We had a bumper crop of 189 applicants for 12 Fellowships. The selection panel met in January 2012 and had an extremely tough job selecting the winners! At the time of writing (February 2012) offers have gone out and are eagerly awaiting responses! The annual Einstein Fellows Symposium was held at NASA-GSFC in October 2011 hosted by *Fermi* Project Scientist Julie McEnery. As always, the talks were terrific and the Symposium was well attended by scientists from Goddard and others in the DC area.

The Einstein Fellows web pages, at <http://cxc.harvard.edu/fellows/>, have been re-designed over the past year. The two main changes are new biographies for current Fellows and a News section. The intention of the news section is to showcase the wonderful accomplishments of the Fellows and to keep applicants informed as to the status of the selection process. To that end we posted the dates of the selection panel meeting and updated the site as soon as offers were made and those on the wait-list notified.

Job-hunting can be extremely stressful, and we hope that these updates will alleviate some of the uncertainty. We took a hard look at the Fellowship Terms and Conditions and decided that we could add wording allowing for up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for family or medical reasons. This brings us in-line with the Family and Medical Leave Act. Since Fellows are not employees but receive a stipend, in practice this means that we “stop the clock” for up to 12 weeks and extend the Fellowship beyond the nominal stop date. We hope this will give some flexibility to deal with family issues.

Einstein Fellows have had some notable successes over the past year. Eran Ofek (2009) has moved back to Israel to take up a faculty position at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Nico Yunes (2010) and Dovi Poznanski (2010) have accepted faculty positions at Montana State University and Tel Aviv University in Israel respectively. Tamara Bogdanovic (2010) has been offered a faculty position at Georgia Tech School of Physics upon completion of her fellowship. When I read the end of year reports I'm always astonished by the productivity of our

Fellows, but two recent papers merit special mention. Matthew Kerr (2011), Robin Corbet, Teddy Cheung, and the *Fermi* LAT collaboration have a recent (January 2012) paper in *Science* reporting on the discovery of periodic emission from the gamma-ray binary 1FGL J1018.6-5856. This object is one of only three gamma binaries known and the first to be discovered by the LAT by searching for a period. The work of Kevin Schawinski (2009) describing a “young” supermassive black hole was showcased in a recent press release from Yale University (<http://news.yale.edu/2011/12/01/yale-discovery-young-supermassive-black-holes-challenges-current-theory>).

Congratulations to all the Fellows on a great year, and we're looking forward to 2012!