



# *Fermi* Users Group



## FSSC News

Chris Shrader,  
*Fermi* Science support Center  
NASA/GSFC

- User support; helpdesk, meetings, workshops
- GI program management
- Archive and Software support and maintenance
- Operations support; scheduling and planning

# Staffing, Task Changes



- Since last FUG:
  - Software team: one replacement hire
- Anticipate flat staffing level through FY14



# Science Tools, Data Products

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- Science Tools release at time of P7 reprocessing + background models & IRFs
  - March/April timeframe
- Support for solar flare tools, general solar system tools, bug fixes
- Details in Dave's report

- Future revisions will have more significant impact on end user (refer to Jeremy's talk)
- “Trunc-64” transition (schedule tbd)
  - Impact on performance
  - Diffuse emission models, in addition to IRFs) now have time dependencies
  - Breaks *gtlike* → “*Composite Likelihood*”

- FSSC will assist prospective white paper PIs
- Web page for submission, support documents
- To evaluate scenarios WP submitters can use *gtorbsim* & *gtobssim* tools
  - Limitations: no easy way create a realistic pointed mode observation and limited documentation on creating a modified survey mode case
  - We hope to address this for the future
- Recommended to contact FSSC which has a more complete set of SW to simulate detailed scenarios

- FSSC will also assess potential impacts of alternative observing strategies on Cycle-6 GI programs, mainly predicated on usual sky survey mode
  - Communicate w/PIs as warranted
  - Provide details to PS, MOC
  - Document and post examples

# Cycle 6 GI Program



- Cycle-6 deadline 1/18/2013
- Schedule:
  - Mid-March peer review (tight schedule!)
  - Stage II deadline, 1 month
  - Stage II review, mid May
  - FY13 grants by August
  - New RA, NASA HQ team



# VERITAS Joint Program

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- Joint program MOU posted 09/2012
- Request (but did not mandate) NOIs
- 20 received, 50% non-VERITAS PIs
  - Feedback provided
  - One withdrawn based on NOI feedback
- Technical evaluation of final proposals to be done by VERITAS
  - Distribute to peer review teams

# Arecibo Joint Program



- Arecibo Observatory has made available up to 300 hours of observation time.
- MOU posted 09/2012 detailing nature of joint program
- Response not yet known
- Technical evaluation to be done by AO, in analogy to NRAO/NOAO reviews
  - Will be available to peer review teams

# 2-Year Proposals



- Introduced in Cycle 4. Distinct from Large Projects; \$100k cap, unlike Large programs can be descoped
- Rationale:
  - Many proposals are requests to continue ongoing work
  - Bolster over subscription statistics
- About 1/3 of proposers have requested 2 year option for Cycle 4 & 5

# 2-Year Proposals



- Review process:
  - Treat 1- and 2-year requests equivalently at stage I.
  - Descope some fraction of stage-I approved 2-year requests at stage II based on rank, peer assessment as clearly stated in NRA
  - In practice, 30-40% have been descope
- Some confusion has recently emerged among descope PIs

# 2-Year Proposals



- Several PIs misinterpreted stage-II award letter and assumed a 2-year award
  - In several cases PIs made student/postdoc commitments based on misunderstanding
  - Some disgruntled communications
- This is being addressed with better communication (NRA text changed, + letters)
- Question for FUG: do the pros outweigh the cons? Is program too complicated?