

Notes for Sept 15 FUG Telecon:

Attendance: Dieter, Lynn, Paul, Fernando, Stefan, Linda, Michael B, Julie, Robin, Chris, Liz, Dave, Elizabeth, Judy, Anna, Jeremy, Savvas

Mission Status (Julie):

- no operational issues
- only 1 ToO since end of modified observing strategy (3C 279)
- V404 Cyg major outburst
- Pass 8 release - new era for data, been ongoing since 2009
  - more improvements coming - LAT team still working on updated Diffuse model, extending down to low energies, and understanding systematics
  - Savvas asked if Pass 8 publication is coming - Jeremy says yes
  - Chris says that community has adapted relatively seamlessly, and data downloads have spiked
- Lots of recent press releases after drought - see [www.nasa.gov/fermi](http://www.nasa.gov/fermi)
- Fermi Summer School was successful, same time next year

GI Program (Chris):

- Cycle 8
  - number of proposals has trended slightly down, probably due to decreased funding
  - proposal cap was reduced to \$60k in NRA, and reduced again at Stage 2
  - 36 new proposals selected - 18% selection rate
  - average award is \$55k
  - total \$3.7M for program
- Cycle 9
  - aim to select ~40 proposals to not go <20% acceptance rate
  - words and targets for NRA? - higher caps and fewer awards or lower caps and more awards?
  - (Dieter) - Concern over decreasing proposal numbers, looks bad for SR
    - (Julie) - Our oversubscription rate is in family with other missions, just slightly lower. It helps that we reduced the funding cap as discussed at the last FUG meeting.
  - (Anna) - Has there been a shift between junior/senior PI's over recent years?
    - (Julie) - Interesting question, but we don't collect information on PIs to know this information. As discussed at last FUG meeting, gender bias seen in Hubble isn't seen in Fermi.
  - Need to satisfy users, but keep justifying the GI program
    - (Stefan) - Just tweak the numbers if needed
    - (Julie) - I think we can keep things as they are
  - (Dieter) - Prioritized Mission Objectives connect to Senior Review?
    - (Julie) - science PMOs cover all Fermi science
    - (Judy) - initiatives could fit into GI program

Fermi Symposium (Elizabeth):

- Nov 9-13 in Arlington, VA
- Abstract deadline extended from yesterday to end of week
- Block program & invited speakers on website
- download poster and print and post
- banquet on Veteran's Day in hotel
- Lynn is doing press for the symposium
- constellations outreach event will hopefully be out by then
- Art/Science evening associate with symposium is being planned

#### Senior Review (Julie):

- confluence pages - if you need access email [judith.racusin@nasa.gov](mailto:judith.racusin@nasa.gov)
- core writing group have already been meeting (notes)
- Draft AO instructions for 9 things we're supposed to include and 10 things we're being evaluated on do not agree
  - new item - science communications
    - while education has been taken out, we're still responsible for communicating our science to the public - constellations, press releases, special sessions at conferences, etc.
  - PMOs
    - Scientific - Dark Matter, Time Domain Astrophysics, Particle Acceleration
    - Technical - Pass 8, Galactic Center pointing, detections & localizations of transients, expanding GI program
  - Need to address each of these
- SR2016
  - Science Achievements including 2014 PMOs
  - New Initiatives
    - focus on short/medium timescale variability
    - focus on high-energy regime
    - exploiting the full duration of the LAT dataset
    - add something related to GI program?
  - Science Themes
    - keep same, but swap "particle acceleration" for "Plasma Astrophysics of Extreme Objects" - same thing
    - add section of Multimessenger astrophysics - including neutrinos and

#### LIGO

- (Dieter) - need to keep track of science accomplishments from Pass 8
    - "Fermi has evolved from a GeV machine to a TeV machine"
    - place emphasis over next two years on these results coming
  - (Julie) - matched angular resolution between GeV & TeV telescopes
  - (Dieter) - "The public doesn't know that you can reinvent a mission by rewriting software on the ground, we should tell them"
  - Different proposal timeline this time
    - write proposal more quickly and iterate rather than solicit white papers
    - after first draft, there will be plenty of time to change direction, if
- comments come early
- We're very open to additional science ideas or new initiatives, and welcome feedback

- Fermi Project wrote a response to the panel on their misunderstanding of our FTE tables, and it's posted on the senior review webpage

(Fernando) - newsletter that we had discussed at the last FUG meeting. It would be a good way to communicate better with the user community.

- Add everyone who has ever proposed, and ask if they want to opt out of Fermi-news?