

## **CUC Meeting, 05/01/15**

This brief CUC meeting consisted of an hour-long phone conference, with two presentations.

CUC members joining the meeting included:

Arjun Dey  
Erica Ellingson  
Mike Eracleous  
Matteo Guainazzi  
Paul Martini  
Jon Miller (chair; jonmm@umich.edu)  
Samar Safi-Harb  
John Stauffer

### **Gender equity in the proposal process:**

The CUC heard a brief presentation from Andrea Prestwich, examining whether or not gender biases are present in the Chandra proposal process. The overall result is positive: there is no systematic bias in the rate at which proposals from women are approved. Phrased differently: proposals from women are accepted at the same rate as proposals from men. This is true going back to Cycle 10, when the fraction of proposals from women exceeded 25%. Other studies suggest that this is as an important threshold for reducing the impact of unconscious biases on evaluation processes.

The CUC was very pleased to see this level of parity, and thanks the CXC for making a careful check of the situation. It is clear that the fraction of proposals led by women should closely track the fraction of women in the field, and that the CXC should remain particularly conscious of the 25% threshold. We note the potential importance of equity in the proposal review process, and in the organization and participation of scientific meetings.

### *Recommendations:*

- Please continue to monitor gender balance in the proposal review process to ensure the panels are representative of the community, and to provide balanced exposure to the review process, which helps investigators write better proposals.

## Chandra Source Catalog

Ian Evans led a presentation on recent efforts by the CSC team. At our October 2014 meeting, the CUC asked the CSC team to hasten their schedule and to begin production of the new source catalog by this meeting. The CSC team and indeed the mission as a whole were very responsive to this request, both broadly and in specific terms. *The CUC is pleased to note that production is now underway, and we congratulate the CSC team and the mission as a whole. This is a very important part of Chandra's legacy.*

At the time of the meeting, approximately 30% of the stacks have been processed. However, the CSC team cautioned that these are not the richest stacks, and that it does not equate to 30% of the total effort.

Various QA and testing procedures are implemented, and additional effort is being supplied from other groups within the mission. This testing is very important, of course, and the net effect appears to be a robust series of checks and feedback mechanisms.

Examples of the catalog software run on different fields indicate that the choices, selections, and categorizations made appear to be sensible. The catalog software is not perfect, but this cannot be the goal. Users who want to catch additional sources beyond those the catalog tools find, will be able to adjust thresholds and choices, and carry out their own analysis.

The CSC team is first releasing a list of detections with basic properties, followed by a full catalog release. This was recommended by the CUC and the CSC team was again very responsive. We think this will help to increase the adoption of the catalog by the broader community (e.g. not just the X-ray community).

### *Recommendations:*

- The CSC team requested feedback on the list of fields and information in the initial detections list. The CUC thinks that the list of fields is appropriate and will be very helpful to users.
- We request that the CXC please commit to making an official cross-reference against at least one optical catalog, and we suggest that SDSS may be the best choice. This action could well be reserved until after the full catalog release. Possibly, some gains could be achieved by simply processing SDSS fields first, if there is to be a staged release of processed fields for the full catalog. The CUC believes that an official cross-reference will establish an important baseline for users, and that it will serve to expand the reach and utility of the catalog into the broader astrophysical community.