
Einstein Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Andrea Prestwich

The Call for Proposals for the 2013 class of Einstein Fellows was released in July 2012. This is the 5th year of the Einstein Fellowship Program, which started in 2008 when the *Chandra* and *Fermi* Fellowship programs were combined. Interest in the program remains very high with 190 applications for 12 Fellowships. The Fellowship Selection Panel met January 15-16, and all candidates received a “sorry”, “wait list” or “offer” e-mail on the afternoon of January 16. As of this writing (January 2013) finalists are considering their offers. We expect the 2013 Fellows to be finalized by February 15.

The 2012 Fellowship Symposium was held in October here at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA). The talks were terrific and much enjoyed by scientists from the CfA and other institutions in the neighborhood.

This year the application process was managed by a completely new software package (Fellowship Management Software, FMS). It was designed and coded by *Chandra* X-ray Center programmers, and is tailored explicitly to the Einstein Program. The FMS is web-based and used for all steps in the selection process: receipt of applications, assigning reviewers to candidates, generating a shortlist of applicants to be discussed at the Selection Panel, and finalizing a rank-ordered list of winners at the Selection Panel. The FMS has worked extremely well, and will be extended over the next year to track current Fellows activities (for example, annual reports and travel requests).

Einstein Fellows have had some notable successes this year. Matt McQuinn (2009 cohort) is currently a *Hubble* Fellow at University of California at Berkeley and will move to a faculty position at the University of Washington in 2014. Justin Vandenbroucke (2012 cohort) has been offered a faculty position at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and Phil Hopkins (2011 cohort) will take up a faculty position at Caltech in the fall of 2013. Emily Levesque (2010 cohort) was awarded the 2012 Robert J. Trumpler award from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Einstein Fellows have also made headlines this year! A paper by Akos Bogdan (2011 cohort) on high black-hole-to-bulge mass ratios in two early-type galaxies (Bogdan et al 2012, ApJ 753, 140B) was the subject of a press release at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. Sam Gralla’s paper on the “Thermodynamics of a Black Hole with a Moon” (arXiv:1210.8444) was showcased by New Scientist magazine in November 2012. Rubens Reis (2011 cohort) had a press release on a QPO in a tidal disruption event (http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/swift/bursts/shredded-star.html). Congratulations to all Fellows on a productive year!