
Ralph Kraft Appointed as New HRC Principal Investigator

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In consultation with NASA, CfA Director Charles Alcock, and HEAD Associate Director Bill Forman, we appointed Ralph Kraft as the HRC Principal Investigator (PI) in September 2015 (press release: http://chandra.harvard.edu/press/15_releases/press_092815.html), following the untimely death of the original PI, Stephen Murray, in August 2015 (see article on pp. 8-12).

Ralph received his undergraduate degree in Physics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1988 and his Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from Pennsylvania State University in 1995, working on developing CCDs for use in X-ray astronomy. He joined the HRC instrument team upon completion of his doctoral thesis and worked closely with Murray and the engineering team that designed and built the flight instrument. Since *Chandra's* launch in 1999, Ralph has divided his time between HRC operations to ensure the health and safety of the flight instrument, ongoing analysis of in-flight calibration data, and development of his own science program. In 2013 he was appointed Project Scientist for the HRC instrument team, with primary day-to-day responsibility for the flight instrument.

Ralph has broad scientific interests including the study of clusters of galaxies, black holes, jets, astrophysical hydrodynamics, the formation of structure in the Universe, and development of instrumentation for future mission concepts in both astrophysics and planetary science. He collaborates with a number of groups at SAO, is well-known to CXC staff, and an integral part of the High Energy Astrophysics Division. Based on his long history and experience with the HRC team, he is well-qualified to take on the role of PI, and the *Chandra* team is very much enjoying working with him. ■