

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to send you the first announcement for a five day conference:

GALACTIC STRUCTURE AND THE STRUCTURE OF GALAXIES
Ensenada, Baja California, MEXICO, 17-21th March 2008
<http://www.galaxiesconf.org>

===== ON-LINE REGISTRATION IS CURRENTLY OPEN =====

This Conference is a joint effort of the "Instituto de Astronomia" at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) and the Max-Planck-Institut fuer Astrophysik (MPA). It will be held in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, from March 17th to 21st, 2008.

Rationale and Goals

Systematic surveys both of the stellar populations of our own Galaxy and of large samples of external galaxies have greatly improved our view of the structure, kinematics, and chemical properties of galaxies. At the same time the establishment of a standard paradigm for the origin and growth of cosmic structure has provided a well-defined framework within which the observed structures are supposed to arise. Despite this, the relative importance and the specific effects of the many physical processes which play a role in shaping galaxies remain controversial.

This conference aims to promote a dialogue between observers studying the structure of our own and other galaxies and theorists trying to understand galaxy formation and evolution in its cosmological context. The focus will primarily be at "low" redshift ($z < 1$) where the detailed structure of galaxies remains observationally accessible.

Topics:

- * Spatial, kinematic and chemical structures in the Milky Way and other galaxies.
- * Fundamental-plane, Tully-Fisher, mass-metallicity-gas content-SFR, and other scaling relations.
- * Relation of galaxy properties to their central supermassive black holes.
- * Relation of galaxy properties to their dark halos and

- their larger scale environment.
- * Evolution of systematic properties of the galaxy population to redshift unity.
 - * Possible links of galaxy structure to assembly and star formation histories and to the evolution of the DM distribution.
 - * Secular evolution versus imprinting at birth; internally vs externally driven evolution.

Speakers will include:

V. Avila-Reese
V. Belokurov
A. Benson
M. Bernardi
J. Binney
J. Brodie
J. Bullock
F. Combes
T. de Zeeuw (*)
N. Forster-Schreiber
C. Frenk
F. Governato
P. Guhathakurta
A. Helmi
L. Hernquist
D. Hogg (*)
G. Kauffmann
J. Kormendy
R. Mandelbaum (*)
D. Merritt (*)
J. Navarro
M. Rich
H.-W. Rix
V. Springel
M. Steinmetz
E. Tolstoy (*)
S. Tremaine (*)
T. Treu
F. van den Bosch (*)
P. van Dokkum
J. van Gorkom
M. Verheijen
B. Weiner
S. White

(*) Pending confirmation. It will be updated as we receive confirmations and responses from the speakers.

Talks and posters

The programme contains open slots for contributed talks and there will be the opportunity to present posters

Proceedings

We do not plan to have proceedings, but the presentations/talks will be available on-line.

Participation

The conference will be limited to 120 participants. Those interested in attending should preregister as soon as possible by filling out a form at:

<http://www.galaxiesconf.org/registration.php>

to receive further announcements and updates.

The registration fee is \$ 250.00. US Dollars

Payment Method

It will be soon indicated in the web page.

Conference Location:

Ensenada is located in the pacific coast of the Baja California Peninsula.

It is 60 miles South of the border with the U.S. at Tijuana, or about 70 miles from downtown San Diego, California

For further information about Baja and Ensenada:

<http://www.mybajaguide.com/eng/destinations.php>

<http://www.mybajaguide.com/eng/destinations-about.php?id=2>

Hotel accommodation

The venue for the Conference is the Hotel Coral & Marina. This is a 5-star hotel with comfortable rooms and convention facilities: ample rooms with wireless Internet, multimedia facilities and exhibition space.

More information about the conference hotel and other nearby hotels, is posted on the conference website.

Please circulate this message widely to others you believe may be interested in the conference.

We expect to see you next March in Ensenada.

On behalf of the organizers,

Simon White (MPA, SOC chair) & Hector Velazquez (IA-UNAM, LOC chair)