Instruments Division News
05/17/2007

• Babak Saif was awarded NASA’s Exceptional Public Service medal on Monday for his work on the JWST mirror system. This is the highest honor NASA bestows on a non-civil servant. Congratulations!
• Bente Eegholm has joined INS as an optical systems engineer. She will be working with Babak on JWST in the Telescopes Group, mostly down at GSFC.
• Thanks to everyone for making the transition to new WBS numbers and having the new leads approve timecards. This all went very smoothly, thanks to Dixie Shipley’s and Robin Auer’s help.
• Interviews for the new Telescopes Group Lead are today. I expect to announce the selection tomorrow or Monday.
• Team leads should be updating GnOs with you before the end of this month. If you feel the GnOs you developed last fall are seriously out of date, let’s fix this before we enter the appraisal season next month.
• Stefano and I will be making a practice of talking with everyone in the division every few months to see how things are going. We’ll be dropping in for informal conversations.
• The STScI Diversity and Climate Committee will be meeting here on June 4 & 5. Gender, Race and Class sub-groups will be recruited to talk with the committee with additional opportunities for individuals to voice their concerns privately. I encourage staff to participate in this process.
• In a similar vein, we’ll be starting up a divisional Diversity Working Group. Stefano will lead this effort, and he’ll be talking to people about it over the next month.
• ITSD is re-starting the Technology Committee. Nor Pirzkal will be the INS rep.
• Team and group leads should be collecting information for prioritizing computer purchases for the second half of the year. Ideally, all PRs need to be in place by the end of June.
• HST issues:
  o Staff discussion of ACS vs. STIS repair priority last week:
    ▪ All agree that we’re thrilled if COS and WFC3 installed and telescope renewed w/ batteries, gyros, and NOBLs. Repairs are icing.
    ▪ Two votes: 17 out 36 feel so strongly about choice they would be upset if the STScI recommendation was the opposite of theirs; 2/3 favor STIS over ACS for its broader range of unique science capabilities.
    ▪ Similar reaction from community to the STUC.
  o HST MO is leading a discussion of current tasks and priorities. ACS+WFPC2 last week; NICMOS this afternoon.
  o ETC configuration management issues are being considered by the HST MO. Rodger will be setting up a meeting of HMO, OED, and INS folks to discuss this.
- Cycle 17 schedule is out, including a plan for the documentation. Leads for documents should be thinking about front matter that guides instrument-mode choices with a full complement of working instruments on the observatory.
- HST clock rollover occurred on April 29 w/ no ill effects!
  - We’re working with SMO to define both Visiting Scientist positions and term hires. The goal is to place ads by next month and hire several more people by this fall to help us get over the staffing hump associated with SM4.
  - JWST-on-the-mall went well last week.
  - I’m still looking for two HST scientists to move to JWST. It really is an exciting time as instruments are assembled, tested, and calibrated. Please consider JWST work, and see me if you are interested!