Instruments Division News
06/17/2010

• Welcome to Paule Sonnentrucker, who recently joined the COS+STIS team as an ESA/AURA Astronomer.

• HST news:
  o Cycle 18 results were announced last week. We hope to get Brett Blacker in for a TIPS presentation next month. The proposal statistics are interesting: half of the awarded time is for spectroscopy, and half or that is for grism and prism observations with WFC3/IR and ACS.
  o Due to low demand, and to save on resources, there will not be any effort to restart NICMOS for Cycle 18. We’ll continue to hold it in reserve for future needs. Thanks to everyone who worked on the numerous restart attempts so far. Your efforts have not been in vain since we do have a much better understanding of how to go about this if needed in the future.
  o Bright Object Protection training for Contact Scientists is being held today, at 2 p.m., in N420.

• JWST News:
  o As Matt Mountain mentioned last Thursday, reviews of budget, schedule and launch date will continue this summer.
  o All the instruments continue in their various stages of engineering and flight model integration and test. Today you’ll hear about the NIRSpec Detector Sub-System from Mike Regan.

• Housing: Our housing outlook is still uncertain, as you heard from Matt last Thursday. Whatever develops, we will still be squeezed from 6-9 months from now until the early part of next year. For at least part of this time, we will need to double up research staff. I’ve had one WIT-team volunteer so far to pair up with a new incoming staff member. This could be a good way to help acclimatize the new staff and help with training. Other possibilities people have suggested is for staff to pair up with postdocs or RIAs with whom they share a science interest or with whom they work closely. I heartily invite more volunteers to get in touch with me.

• I hope you noticed the posting of an ad for the new INS Division Head, to replace me when I go on sabbatical this fall. Applications are due to HR by July 9.

• Our monthly INS Division lunch will be next Thursday, June 24, in the boardroom.

• Next TIPS is July 15, 2010.