

Dear Colleagues,

We are going to organize an international conference titled "Exploring the Universe: Near Earth space science to extragalactic astronomy" in November 14-17, 2018 at S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata (INDIA).

Though the Title of the Conference is quite general, there are a few special focused topics. The idea is to make the participants, almost sixty percent of whom are expected to be the graduate students, aware of the modern research areas starting from the balloon borne exploration of near space, to satellite study of compact objects, to star formation, stellar evolution, and physics of and around compact objects. Another exciting topic which is being explored in ALMA era is Astrochemistry and Astrobiology. We expect about thirty experts in these topics to give overall reviews in these topics.

One of the main topics of the meeting would be theoretical and observational aspects of compact objects such as black holes, neutron stars and white dwarfs. A clear enunciation of the current outstanding problems in accretion onto black holes would be formulated and a clear path for future research work would be drawn with an aim to measure the most fundamental properties of black holes and that of the accretion flows. At the same time, the results of analysis of the data from several satellites, such as RXTE, INTEGRAL, XMM-Newton, AstroSat, SWIFT etc. are to be presented.

Similarly, study of ALMA data shedding light on Astrochemistry and formation of bio-molecules in star forming region would be another major topic. Grain and gas chemistry, formation of complex molecules in the presence of grains, and, indeed, novae outbursts and formation of grains themselves would be reviewed as well.

Though Ionospheric research is considered to be a very old subject, its emergence as a tool to study earthquake prediction will get some focus. Treating the Earth as a gigantic detector and how that gives the spectra of solar flares would be discussed as well.

This occasion will also be an opportunity to felicitate our friend/colleague/advisor, Professor Sandip K. Chakrabarti, who is turning 60 on 15th November, 2018. Hence, on the day of 15th November, we are holding a special session to celebrate his career achievements. We plan to have a gathering of his close collaborators and friends on that day specially.

Please let us know, at this moment tentatively, at your earliest, if you can make it. This will help us to arrange logistics with appropriate funds towards it. In near future, we will send a more formal invitation with the link of the conference. You also please visit www.bose.res.in for the conference announcements in near future.

We apologize, in case you receive more than one copy of this invitation.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Soumen Mondal, S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata (Convenor)

A R rao, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai (Co-convenor)

Banibrata Mukhopadhyay, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (Convenor)