

Conference on

Globular Clusters – Guides to Galaxies

March 6–10, 2006, Universidad de Concepción, Chile

The Universidad de Concepción, the Centro de Astrofísica FONDAF (Chile), the Cerro Tololo Interamerican Observatory and ESO are organising a conference on “Globular Clusters – Guides to Galaxies”, which will take place on March 6–10, 2006.

The principal question of whether and how globular clusters can lead to a better understanding of galaxy formation and evolution is perhaps the main driving force behind the overall endeavour of studying globular-cluster systems. Naturally, this disperses into many individual problems.

The objective of our conference is to bring together researchers, both observational and theoretical, to present and discuss the most recent results. Topics to be covered are: internal dynamics of globular clusters and interaction with host galaxies (tidal tails, evolution of cluster masses), accretion of globular clusters, detailed descriptions of nearby cluster systems, ultracompact dwarfs, formations of massive clusters in mergers and elsewhere, the ACS Virgo survey, galaxy formation and globular clusters, dynamics and kinematics of globular-cluster systems, and dark-matter-related problems.

Invited speakers: Holger Baumgardt, Michael Beasley, Kenji Bekki, Jean Brodie, Andreas Burkert, Rupali Chandar, Patrick Côté, William Harris, Michael Hilker, Andres Jordan, Oleg Gnedin, Dean McLaughlin, Bryan Miller, Kathy Perrett, Aaron Romanowsky, François Schweizer, Stephen Zepf.

Scientific Organising Committee: Bruce Elmegreen, Duncan Forbes, Doug Geisler, Eva Grebel, Leopoldo Infante, Markus Kissler-Patig, Søren S. Larsen (co-chair), Tom Richtler (chair).

Visit our webpage: www.astro-udec.cl
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NEON Observing Schools

The Fifth NEON Observing School
July 23–August 6, 2006
Observatoire de Haute-Provence, France

The purpose of these summer schools is to provide the opportunity for young researchers to gain practical experience in observational techniques, data reduction and analysis and the use of virtual observatory tools. Students will carry out small research projects, centred on selected astrophysical topics, in small groups under the supervision of experienced astronomers. These practical exercises will be complemented by lectures on general observational techniques and archival research for both ground and space based astronomy.

The observing school at the telescopes in Haute-Provence will largely concentrate on the skills required to execute an observing programme (imaging and spectroscopy), giving emphasis to spectroscopy

and instrumental developments. The Archive Observing School at ESO will concentrate more on the quality appraisal of existing data and the research possible with large databases combining ground and space data, with emphasis on data-reduction techniques and the new tools now available within the Virtual Observatory.

The schools are sponsored by the European Community, Marie Curie Actions.

The organising consortium is composed of Asiago Observatory (Italy), Calar Alto Observatory (Germany, Spain), ESO (Germany); including participation from the Space Telescope European Coordinating Facility), Observatoire de Haute-Provence (France), Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris

The Second NEON Archive Observing School
August 30–September 9, 2006
ESO, Germany

(France) and La Palma Observatories (ING and NOT, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Spain and Nordic Countries).

The schools are principally open to Astronomy PhD students and postdocs who are nationals of a Member State or an Associate State of the European Union. Applications from non-European students will also be considered, depending on the resources available.

The application deadline is April 30, 2006 for both schools.

For further details, see:
<http://www.eso.org/neon-2006> and
<http://www.iap.fr/eas/neonNew.html>