

producing a sound framework for the interpretation of observations.

This workshop will review the current progress in our understanding of low-mass star and brown dwarf (BD) formation in nearby molecular clouds, and will bring together observers and theoreticians to promote stimulating discussion.

The main science topics include:

- Properties of nearby molecular clouds and cores forming stars and BDs;
- Theory and observations of collapse of protostars and protobinaries;
- Early evolutionary stages of very low mass stars and BDs: disc-mediated accretion and ejection;

- The initial mass functions of stars and BDs and their possible relation with the molecular cloud clump mass function;
- The processes that regulate star formation in giant molecular clouds from theoretical and observational aspects;
- Surveys for young, very low mass stars and BDs.

The workshop is jointly organised by ESO, the Max-Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, the Excellence Cluster Origin and Structure of the Universe and the University Observatory Munich. The meeting will take place at ESO Garching. There will be five main sessions, each introduced by an invited observational review and a theoretical

review. The sessions will be further complemented by contributed talks and open discussions. Ample space will be provided for posters. Proposals for both contributed talks and posters are invited. Owing to the capacity of the local facilities, the number of participants will be limited to around 120. Financial support will be available for a small number of participants, mainly for students and young researchers.

The registration deadline is 30 June 2011.

Further details are available at <http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2011/vlms2011.html>.

#### Announcement of the Workshop

## Feeding the Giants: ELTs in the Era of Surveys

29 August–2 September 2011, Hotel Continental Terme, Ischia, Italy

Over the next decade, by the time of first light of the Extremely Large Telescopes (ELTs), an incredible wealth of data will have become available through many new survey facilities. Astronomy will enter an era of surveys. At the same time, the ELTs will open up a new parameter space of unprecedented sensitivity and spatial resolution. This workshop is aimed at exploring the synergies between these two approaches. It will review ongoing and forthcoming survey projects and explore the developments that these will bring to a wide range of science areas, including exoplanets, star formation, stellar populations, galaxy formation/evolution and cosmology.

The workshop will address two broad questions:

- Along with surveys conducted by current and forthcoming observatories, how will the upcoming dedicated survey facilities (such as, to name just a few, Kepler, Gaia, the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope [LSST], the Dark Energy Survey [DES], the VLT Survey Telescope [VST] and the VLT Infrared

Survey Telescope for Astronomy [VISTA], the Panoramic Survey Telescope & Rapid Response System [Pan-STARRS], the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope [WFIRST], SCUBA-2, WISE, Euclid, Plato, the Square Kilometer Array [SKA] and its pathfinders, etc.) profit from follow-up by the ELTs?

- To what extent do the three ELT projects (Giant Magellan Telescope [GMT], Thirty Meter Telescope [TMT] and European Extremely Large Telescope [E-ELT]) require surveys to prepare scientific breakthroughs?

The goal is to bring together the survey and ELT communities and to define first strategies to maximise the success of both aspects.

The workshop is organised jointly by ESO (Markus Kissler-Patig and Jochen Liske), OPTICON and the INAF–Observatory of Rome (Annalisa Calamida and Isobel Hook) and the University of Oxford (Aprajita Verma). The other members of the Scientific Organising Committee are: Daniel Eisenstein (University of Arizona),

Josh Frieman (Fermilab), Gerry Gilmore (University of Cambridge), Anne-Marie Lagrange (Grenoble Observatory), Pat McCarthy (GMT Observatory), Timo Prusti (ESA), Hans-Walter Rix (MPIA), Elaine Sadler (University of Sydney), David Silva (NOAO/GSMT), Luc Simard (CNRC/TMT) and Will Sutherland (University of London). The Local Organising Committee is composed of Annalisa Calamida, Vanessa Ferraro-Wood, Giuliana Giobbi and Aprajita Verma.

The workshop will be held at the Hotel Continental Terme, on the Island of Ischia near Naples. Further details can be found at <http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2011/feedgiant.html>.

Registration will open at the end of March 2011.

