

Announcement of the Conference

ESO@50 – The First 50 Years of ESO

3–7 September 2012, ESO Headquarters, Garching, Germany

A special science workshop will be held at ESO Headquarters to mark the 50th anniversary. The ESO@50 workshop is intended to provide an original perspective on the scientific challenges of the coming decade, building on the achievements from the science community using ESO facilities. This five-day workshop will focus on the main scientific topics where ESO has made important contributions. Key speakers will be invited to give overviews of each field (including some historical perspective) and then focusing on the present science status surrounding these questions. The next science steps will also be emphasised. Some “bonus” tracks will be included, such as introducing the first ALMA results, the latest unpublished VLT/I and La Silla

results, and an outlook for science with the E-ELT.

The meeting will consist of invited reviews and contributed talks covering the many diverse scientific areas in which ESO has contributed, including the Solar System, exoplanets, stellar birth and the interstellar medium, stellar death, the Milky Way, nearby galaxies, galaxy surveys, distant galaxies, galaxy clusters and cosmology.

The distinguished Scientific Organising Committee is composed of: Beatriz Barbuy (Brazil); Xavier Barcons (Spain; president of ESO Council); Willy Benz (Switzerland); Jacqueline Bergeron (France); Emanuele Daddi (France); Tim de Zeeuw (ESO); Eric Emsellem (ESO);

Isobel Hook (United Kingdom); Konrad Kuijken (the Netherlands); Bruno Leibundgut (ESO); Maria-Teresa Ruiz (Chile); Monica Tosi (Italy); Linda Tacconi (Germany); Michael West (ESO).

The Local Organising Committee is composed of Eric Emsellem, Bruno Leibundgut, Jorge Melnick, Markus Kissler-Patig, Christina Stoffer, Leonardo Testi, Svea Teupke and Michael West.

The registration deadline is 31 May 2012.

Further details are available at: <http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2012/ESOat50.html> or by email to: ESOat50@eso.org

Announcement of the ESO Workshop

Ecology of Blue Straggler Stars

5–9 November 2012, ESO Vitacura, Santiago, Chile



The existence of blue straggler stars, which appear younger, hotter, and more massive than their siblings, is at odds with a simple picture of stellar evolution, as such stars should have exhausted their nuclear fuel and evolved long ago to become cooling white dwarfs. Observations have revealed that blue stragglers exist in globular clusters, open clusters, dwarf spheroidal galaxies (dSph) of the Local Group and OB associations. Field blue stragglers have also been identified from their anomalous kinematics and metallicity.

An accumulation of observational evidence now points to the fact that the two mechanisms thought to be responsible for blue stragglers – mergers and mass transfer – are operating in the same cluster: the exact preponderance of one mechanism over the other possibly depending on the cluster's property, that is, the blue stragglers' ecology. For example, it would seem natural that the most populous systems, i.e. globular clusters, should produce the largest population of blue stragglers, irrespective of the mechanism involved. Recently, however, it was shown that Galactic open clusters seem to contain the largest proportions of blue stragglers, a proportion only approached by the low luminosity dSphs.

This is the first workshop ever devoted to these unique objects. The workshop aims at bringing together theoreticians and observers in order to compose a complete picture of the progress in the field. It will also bring together specialists of binaries and multiple systems, stellar evolution and stellar populations, as well

as of the dynamics of clusters. Spread over a week and held at the ESO-Chile headquarters in Santiago, the workshop will consist of extended invited reviews, with ample time for contributed talks and space for posters.

The scientific organising committee is composed of: Giovanni Carraro (ESO, co-chair); Henri Boffin (ESO, co-chair); Giacomo Beccari (ESO); Alison Sills (McMaster University, Canada); Melvyn Davies (Lund University, Sweden); Francesco Ferraro (University of Bologna, Italy); Robert Mathieu (University of Wisconsin, USA); Hagai Perets (Harvard University, USA); and Javier Ahumada (Universidad de Córdoba, Argentina).

The registration deadline is 31 July 2012.

Further details are available at: <http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2012/bss2012.html>, or by e-mail to: bss2012@eso.org