

the MEGARA integral field spectrograph to be installed on the 10-metre GTC.

For my research I have been making good use of ESO's VLT to study proto-planetary discs (the theme of my Marie Curie fellowship), planetary nebulae and blue compact galaxies in the nearby Universe. I investigate the chemical composition of these sources through their emission lines, observed by integral field spectrographs such as FLAMES

or VIMOS. It all seems so far removed from the reach of the 4.5-inch telescope I still keep back home and with which I used to split ϵ Lyrae or observe the scars of Shoemaker-Levy 9 on Jupiter in 1994 from downtown Thessaloniki. Munich is really an excellent place to live in and work. Holding my fellowship at ESO has given me leave to spend considerable time away, suiting the needs of our family (thanks to the flexible IEF rules), a generous travel allowance (NASA Ames near

San Francisco and Morelia in Mexico are next in line), all the while benefiting from the remarkably stimulating environment. The people who work here are lucky and I guess they know it; they should cherish it in these testing times. Becoming involved with ESO has been a truly positive experience. *Χίλια ευχαριστώ/mille grazie* to Alessandro and Silvia for putting up with their personal astronomer. Thanks and all the best, to all ESO staff too.

Announcement of the Conference

The First Year of ALMA Science

12–15 December 2012, Hotel Cumbres Patagónicas, Puerto Varas, Chile

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) Early Science operations started at the end of September 2011. Over one hundred high profile science projects have been identified as high priority for execution. The first exciting scientific results from Science Verification datasets and Cycle 0 observations have begun to appear in refereed journals since the beginning of 2012. By the end of this year, the ALMA users community will be in a position to review the first science results produced by this new and unique facility.

The conference will include all the ALMA science topics covered by Early Science observations, from Solar System bodies

to objects in our own Galaxy, from the local to the high redshift Universe. While the conference will obviously be focused on ALMA observational results, presentations and discussions on related theoretical implications and predictions will be included, as well as relevant complementary data from other major facilities. The conference will also be an ideal venue to discuss the scientific priorities for the upgrades to the ALMA development plan in the context of the first results from Early Science.

To allow more ALMA users to propose contributions based on results from their Cycle 0 projects, we have selected a late deadline for abstract contributions of 27 October 2012.

Important deadlines:

- Registration opens: 1 June 2012
- Abstract deadline: 27 October 2012
- Contributed talk selection: 16 November 2012

The conference website is:
<http://www.almasc.org/2012>

More details are also available by email:
asc2012@alma.cl

The conference is co-sponsored by the Joint ALMA Observatory and the ALMA partners (ESO, NAOJ and NRAO), with additional support provided by the EC-FP7 Radionet3 project.

