



Star Formation – Astrobiology Postdoctoral Fellow – Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawai'i Manoa

The Institute for Astronomy (IfA) invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship with interests in young variable stars to join the University of Hawai'i's NASA Astrobiology Institute lead team (see <http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/UHNAI/>). The Fellowship will be available in early 2009 upon availability of funds. The appointment may be renewable for up to 3 years assuming satisfactory progress and availability of funds and the Fellow will receive a stipend of approximately \$4800 per month, a small relocation allowance and basic research costs.

The UH lead team maintains an innovative and multi-disciplinary research environment linking astronomical, biological, microbiological, chemical, and geological sciences to investigate the origin, history, distribution and role of water as it relates to life in the universe. The program centers around interactions with an interdisciplinary group of postdoctoral fellows. We have a particular need for an individual interested in the study of variability of young stars and circumstellar disks, to be performed within the VYSOS (Variable Young Stellar Objects Survey) project led by Dr. Bo Reipurth. VYSOS uses four new robotic telescopes (from 5.5 to 20 inches), two located at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii, the other two at Cerro Armazones in Chile. The telescopes are devoted to continuous monitoring of regions of recent star formation all along the Galactic plane. The observations are automatically reduced and calibrated using advanced software packages that result in major data bases and catalogs, which are consulted using efficient algorithms.

The successful candidate will join the VYSOS team in the commissioning phase and will focus on research using the VYSOS data. He/she will also have access to follow-up observations using the unequalled astronomical observing facilities of the Mauna Kea and Haleakala observatories. The candidate is encouraged to collaborate with other fellows and co-investigators in an interdisciplinary environment and is expected to participate in the group activities (*e.g.* seminars, meetings, discussion groups etc).

Minimum qualifications include a Ph.D. in Astronomy or a related field, a record of research in stellar astronomy as demonstrated by publications, good computer skills, and extensive practical experience in the use/development of robotic telescopes, astronomical data processing, handling of large databases, and scheduling software. Education and public outreach is an integral part of the Astrobiology program and experience with or interest in E/PO will be considered positively in an application.

Further details about the bioinformatics research projects being carried out within the UH Astrobiology effort can be obtained from Dr. Bo Reipurth (reipurth@ifa.hawaii.edu). Questions about the UH Astrobiology lead team's program may be directed to Dr. K. J. Meech (meech@ifa.hawaii.edu).

To Apply, please submit the following:

- Contact information - name, email, phone(s), fax, address.
- Current position and location
- Date of Ph.D and where and what field
- Date available if selected for Fellowship.
- If non-US citizen, visa status (note: funding only allows support for fellows on J1-visas)
- Current CV and Bibliography
- Letters of recommendation – Please have 3 letters of recommendation sent separately to the address below.

Application materials can be sent (preferably by email) to:

Via snail mail to: Karen Ehrhorn, Institute for Astronomy, 2680 Woodlawn Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822.

Via email to: ehrhorn@ifa.hawaii.edu

Via fax to: NAI Postdoc application, Fax no. (808) 956-4644

Applications will be reviewed beginning February 1, 2009 and will remain open until the Fellowship is filled.