GammaSIG

Liz Hays on behalf of the GammaSIG
PhysPAG Town Hall at AAS, National Harbor, MD
January 5, 2014

http://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/sags/gammasag.php
News

- Welcome to Mark McConnell, new member of PhysPAG exec. Liz will rotate off the exec. committee in the coming year
- European progress toward an MeV gamma-ray mission
  - CNES workshop process narrowed mission concept aimed for ESA AO M4 to two instruments spanning ~500 keV to 100 MeV (https://indico.in2p3.fr/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=8608)
High Impact Gamma-ray Science in 2013

• “Cosmic particle accelerators identified”
  – identification of proton signature in gamma-ray emission from supernova remnants appears as one of the Top 10 Science magazine breakthroughs of the year. Also included on the top 100 science stories in Discover.

• “Watershed” cosmic blast
  – GRB 130427A, a bright, nearby burst, provided a front-row seat and challenges emission models. Generated fantastic science and press.

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Interactions with the community

• Best meetings for PhysPAG and GammaSIG interactions with gamma-ray scientists
  – HEAD meetings (next is 2014)
  – Fermi Symposium (next is November 2014 in Japan)
  – APS April meeting (PhysPAG session in April 2014. Opportunity to organize a mini-symposium for April 2015)

• The gamma-ray community is broad – encompasses astrophysics, particle physics, cosmic rays... – this is a good thing!
Future Gamma-ray Science

- Interest in GammaSIG to organize a workshop on the next MeV instrument
  - Seeking consensus within the U.S. gamma-ray community on science goals and technical approaches
  - Forming a core committee within GammaSIG to organize this effort
  - Anticipated output of the meeting is a document summarizing the community view on science objectives and technical priorities
Getting Involved with GammaSAG

• Visit the website: http://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/sags/gammasag.php
• Sign up for e-mail notifications
• Contact chair with comments and questions: Liz Hays (elizabeth.a.hays at nasa.gov)

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