

GammaSIG

Liz Hays on behalf of the
GammaSIG

PhysPAG Town Hall at AAS,
National Harbor, MD

January 5, 2014

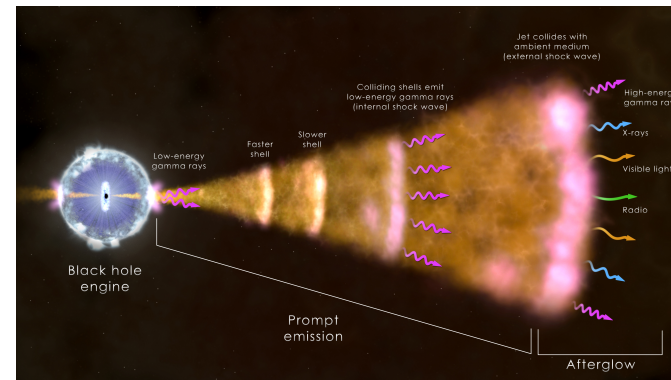
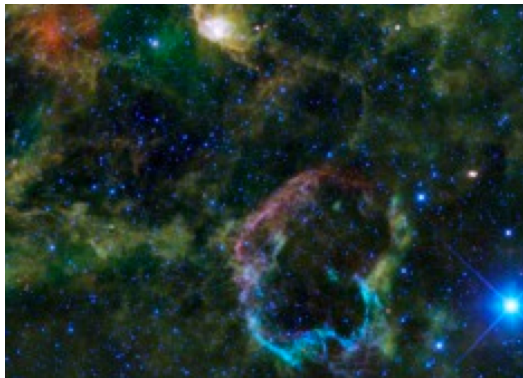
<http://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/sags/gammasag.php>

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.

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 a 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)