Postdoctoral Position in X-ray Astrophysics

The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center’s (GSFC) X-ray Astrophysics Laboratory, in conjunction with the Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology (CRESST), is soliciting applicants for a postdoctoral position to work with the Astro-H team at the NASA/GSFC in Greenbelt, MD.

The Astro-H mission is Japan's sixth X-ray astronomy mission and has significant contributions from NASA, including a broad-band, high-resolution Soft X-ray Spectrometer. Its scientific objectives are to study X-ray clusters of galaxies (including the dynamical state) as probes of structure formation, observe the behavior of material in extreme gravitational fields, determine the spin of black holes and the physical conditions within neutron stars, trace shock acceleration structures in clusters of galaxies and supernova remnants, and investigate the physics of astrophysical jets. Astro-H has three other instruments that enable a very broad-band sensitivity from 0.3 to 600 keV. The mission is slated for launch in 2015.

We are looking for a research scientist primarily to help the PI and Project Scientist with science planning for Astro-H. Responsibilities will include: 1) developing observing strategies that optimize the full capabilities of Astro-H based on simulations, 2) contributing to white papers on potential science topics, and 3) eventually participating in observations and data reduction, as a member of the Astro-H science team, once the mission is operational. A broad knowledge of X-ray astrophysics is desired, though it is presumed that candidates will have expertise in one focus area relevant to Astro-H. Experience with high resolution X-ray spectroscopic data is particularly desirable. For this junior or entry-level position, we prefer candidates who are within ~5 years of receiving their Ph.D.s, but we will consider any qualified candidate.

Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Applicants should forward Curriculum Vitae, list of publications, statement of research interests, and names/contact information for three references to:

Astro-H Postdoc
CRESST/UMD
Mail Code 660.8, NASA/GSFC
Greenbelt, MD 20771, or
Via e-mail to virginia.c.peles@nasa.gov

For further information on Astro-H, please contact Richard Kelley (richard.l.kelley@nasa.gov) or Rob Petre (robert.petre-1@nasa.gov). More information about Astro-H is available at http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/astroh/. For information on CRESST and the University of Maryland’s Department of Astronomy, please contact Tracy Huard (thuard@astro.umd.edu).

The University of Maryland is an equal opportunity employer. All applications received by May 1st, 2013 will receive full consideration.