

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESO Director General to Become President of AUI

TEXT OF THE JOINT ESO-AUI PRESS RELEASE OF 3 NOVEMBER 1998 (EXCERPTS)

The appointment of Professor Riccardo Giacconi, Director General of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) since January 1, 1993, to the Presidency of Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI) in the USA, has been jointly announced by Professor Paul C. Martin, Chair of AUI's Board of Trustees and Mr. Henrik Grage, President of the ESO Council. Professor Giacconi will assume this new position at the end of his term at ESO as of July 1, 1999.

AUI is a not-for-profit science management corporation that operates the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) under a Cooperative Agreement with the National Science Foundation (NSF). Corporate headquarters are located in Washington, D.C. The President is its chief executive officer.

Mr. Grage, President of the ESO Council, expressed the gratitude of the ESO Community for the leadership provided by Prof. Giacconi during these crucial years of development of the organisation and its La Silla and Paranal Observatories. In particular, the splendid achievements on the Very Large Telescope (VLT) are a tribute to the ESO staff and to his management and guidance. VLT is currently the largest single project in ground-based astronomy. It has met or exceeded all performance requirements while being built on time and within budget.

When reached for comment, Professor Giacconi pointed out: "I have enjoyed enormously the time I have spent here at ESO and I consider it one of the high points of my career. I feel confident that I am leaving ESO in very good condition. The fine performance of the entire staff has succeeded in bringing the organisation to an outstanding position in ground-based astronomy in the world. The prospects for the future are equally brilliant.

I will be happy and proud to assume the Presidency of Associated Universities, Inc. starting next summer. For more than fifty years, AUI has, in collaboration with universities and the national and international scientific community, overseen and managed national facilities which have made possible a wealth of important discoveries in physics, astronomy, and many other areas of science and technology. In the 21st century, new challenges and opportunities to serve the community await AUI."

"We are thrilled that Professor Giacconi has decided to take this position", said Professor Paul Martin, Chairman of the Board of AUI. "It is hard to imagine anyone better qualified to lead an organisation committed to managing facilities performing frontier science. His vision and foresight have been at the heart of pioneering projects including the Einstein Observatory, the Space Telescope, and the VLT. He is an extraordinary scientist and an outstanding manager whose accomplishments and values have earned him worldwide respect and admiration."

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

ESO Workshop on Black Holes in Binaries and Galactic Nuclei – *Their Diagnostics, Demography, and Formation*

6–8 September 1999

ESO Headquarters, Garching bei München, Germany

The aim of this workshop is to bring together astrophysicists working on the rather separate fields of stellar mass and supermassive black holes, with emphasis on the formation, population, physics, and environments of black holes. An overview will be given of the observational evidence for the existence of black holes in binaries and galactic nuclei. Related topics like the late stages of (binary) evolution and galaxy formation will be addressed.

Topics to be covered include:

- **Black-hole diagnostics**

Binaries (X-ray sources, neutron stars vs. black holes)
Centres of galaxies, including our own (AGN phenomenon, stellar and gas dynamics signatures)
Jets, disks and accretion tori; Variability and outbursts

- **Properties of black-hole populations**

Stellar-mass black holes; Supermassive black holes

- **Black-hole formation**

Progenitors of stellar-mass black holes: Supernovae/Hypernovae Models for the formation of supermassive black holes

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