Postdoctoral Position in Transient and Multi-messenger Astronomy Data Science

The High Energy Astrophysics Science Archive Research Center (HEASARC) and Time-domain Astronomy Coordination Hub (TACH) at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) invite applications for postdoctoral research positions in the fields of transient and/or multi-messenger astronomy. Applicants should have a strong astronomy research track record and also deep expertise in the technical disciplines of full-stack software development, cloud computing, and data visualization. Experience in machine learning and/or time-series databases would also be beneficial.

Successful applicants will join HEASARC/TACH and have a central role in shaping Goddard’s multi-messenger science output. This position is funded at 100% FTE. Approximately half of the applicant’s time will be devoted to HEASARC/TACH, including activities such as software engineering, shaping next-generation Kafka-based NASA astronomy alert systems, pipeline development, and collaboration with Goddard-supported missions. The remainder of the applicant’s time is available for self-driven research projects.

GSFC is home to over 100 Ph.D. astronomers, including project teams for Swift, Fermi, NICER, NuSTAR, TESS, JWST, and Roman, as well as ample computational resources. GSFC is also a member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration. Through the Joint Space-Science Institute (JSI), GSFC is a partner in the Zwicky Transient Facility project. The successful applicants will also have the opportunity to apply for time on 4.3m Lowell Discovery Telescope in Happy Jack, AZ.

The positions are for two years, renewable for a third year upon mutual agreement, and will be hired through the University of Maryland, Baltimore County on the CRESST II collaborative agreement with GSFC. The nominal starting date is in Fall 2021, but alternate dates are possible depending on availability. Candidates must have a Ph.D. in astronomy, physics, or a related field by the date of appointment.

Candidates should provide a cover letter, CV (including publication list), and a 3-page statement of research interests. Short-listed candidates will be asked to supply three letters of reference at a later date. Completed applications received by Friday, April 30, 2021 will receive full consideration. All application materials and inquiries should be sent to:

Transient and Multi-messenger Astronomy Data Science Postdoctoral Position
CRESST/UMBC
Mail Code 660.8, NASA/GSFC
Greenbelt, MD 20771, or
Via e-mail to katherine.s.mckee@nasa.gov

Salary and benefits are competitive, commensurate with experience and qualifications. For more information about the proposed research, contact Dr. Judith Racusin (judith.racusin@nasa.gov). For information on CRESST II or UMBC, contact Dr. Don Engel (donengel@umbc.edu). UMBC is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes all to apply. EOE/M/F/D/V. The TACH
project and NASA/GSFC are committed to building a diverse group and encourage applications from women, racial and ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans.