National Optical Astronomy Observatory

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To: NOAO-South Visiting Observers
Date: December 12 2018
Re: 2019A Target of Opportunity Programs on the Blanco Telescope

For the 2019A semester the NOAO TAC has authorized three Target of Opportunity (ToO) programs using DECam on the Blanco telescope that could impact (take time away from) your program.

2019A-0205 PI D. Goldstein "Public DECam Follow-Up of Neutron Star Mergers from the Third Gravitational Wave Observing Run"

This program has been granted ToO interrupt time to localize two GW event alerts from LIGO/Virgo. For each event observations will take a total of 11 hours of wall clock time spread over two successive nights. The current operations schedule for LIGO/Virgo has science operations, hence the possibility of interrupts, beginning in April 2019.

2019A-0240 PI K. Bechtol "Revealing the Sources of High-Energy Astrophysical Neutrinos"

This program has been granted ToO interrupt time to follow up to 4 alerts from the IceCube neutrino detector. For each alert, data will be obtained at up to 6 epochs, taking 20m of elapsed (wall clock) time per epoch. The first epoch for each alert is the most time critical with data required as soon as possible after the alert. The subsequent epochs will be approximately 2, 5, 9, 14 and 21 days after the event with some flexibility in scheduling so as to minimize the impact on the scheduled observers.

2019A-0129 PI R. McMillan "Spacewatch Target of Opportunity for the Recovery and Astrometry of High Priority Near-Earth Objects"

This program has been granted a single interrupt of up to two hours of elapsed (wall clock) time.

The NOAO Target of Opportunity policy, and its specific implementation at the Blanco telescope are described at

https://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/help/too.html and
http://www.ctio.noao.edu/noao/content/ToO-Policy

respectively. Under this policy the scheduled observer is expected to help carry out the observations for the ToO program by executing observing scripts that will be prepared in advance by the PI of the ToO program. The CTIO support scientists assigned to the scheduled program and the ToO program will help coordinate these observations as needed.

The PIs of scheduled observing runs that are compromised by a ToO interrupt may appeal to the CTIO director or the NOAO Director for discretionary time compensation for the time lost. The award of this compensation will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will not automatically be granted.

In addition, the NOAO TAC has authorized a time-domain survey program **2019A-0065 PI Y. Shen "DECam Early Imaging of AGN Reverberation Mapping Fields in SDSS-V"** which requires observations, each consuming 1 hour of wall clock time, to be taken at an approximately weekly cadence throughout the semester. Time for this program has been scheduled on fixed nights, taking time away from the program scheduled for the majority of that night. The observations are to be taken in a single block on the specified night either near the start, middle or end of the night, the

exact time being up for negotiation between the investigators in order to minimise the disruption caused. PIs of programs affected by this will be explicitly notified in their “yes letter”. In the case of programs (mostly surveys) impacted on multiple nights, additional time has been added to the number of nights requested in the proposal to compensate for this.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about any of the above

Sincerely,

Steve Heathcote, CTIO Director