

To: NOAO-South Visiting Observers
Date: June 18 2019
Re: 2019B Target of Opportunity Programs on the Blanco Telescope

For the 2019B 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.

2019B-0353 PI I. Andreoni “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 characterized as a binary neutron star or black hole neutron star binary. For each event observations will take a total of 11 hours of wall clock time spread over two successive nights.

2019A-0372 PI: M. Soares-Santos “The DECam Search & Discovery Program for Optical Signatures of Gravitational Wave Events (DESGW)” This program has been granted ToO interrupt time to follow one (1) alert in order to obtain limits of optical emission of a BBH merger. The event observations will take a total of 10.7 hours (10 hours, 40 minutes) of wall clock time spread over four (4) nights. Each night the interruption will take 2 hours 40 minutes.

2019B-0008 PI R. McMillan “Spacewatch Target of Opportunity for the Recovery and Astrometry of 2 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.

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

Sincerely,

Steve Heathcote, CTIO Director