

## GrEAT Call

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 9:30-10:30 UK (17:30-18:30 China)

### 1) Location of next GrEAT network meeting (UK or China?)

Discussion of the next face-to-face meeting for this funding round. Funding ends in June and if we go by rotation the next meeting would be held in the UK. Regarding times – aiming for late May/ some time after 17<sup>th</sup> as not to coincide with ADW meeting in Japan. London was suggested as a location however an e-mail will be circulated across UK institutions for more volunteers to host. To ask Ed Daw for his thoughts on location.

### 2) Report from Birmingham winter school + 1-month research performed at GrEAT network intuitions.

The winter school went reasonably well with students receiving an overview of gravitational wave astronomy and instrumentation. Two students involved in instrumentation and eight on data analysis. Students on instrumentation shown lab to collect data and estimate parameters of high finesse of optical cavity and to create some codes for analysis of neural displacement and calibration. Data analysis students worked with coatings and others on basic parameter estimation of source. Siong requests to have any student feedback forms to be filled out for report writing. One comment that was brought up is the students may find it challenging to communicate which is understandable going abroad for the first time. **Solution:** Longer terms or some student priming before coming over. Overall UK institutions are happy to communicate on this matter and learning to talk to each other is part of the learning experience. Will be an ongoing discussion.

### 3) Futurum article on GrEAT network, with Chinese translation

List of outreach source was provided in the link for this meeting. The futurum article was written by magazine editors and aimed towards school students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects. The article is around 6 pages long and is an interview with people from the GrEAT network on what it is like to be a scientist working on gravitational waves. There is also a Chinese translation available in high resolution designed for printing and distribution. Siong asked if it's possible for our Chinese colleagues to circulate the materials and if printing would be a problem. The consensus was that printing is fine, however, would like more information on the response we are hoping to receive. **Solution:** These materials are designed for school student – undergraduates level, perhaps too simple for post graduates. The main idea is to spread some interest in gravitational waves. The article also is designed to make science more approachable to students by giving them an idea of what it is like to be a scientist and letting the public know there is a more human side to the people working in the field (say something funny about yourself section). An idea was proposed to have some available for people giving scientific talks and to distribute posters at various planetariums in China. This would also be useful for parents taking their children to science centres etc.

Some comments were made on the materials regarding the map of China and to include Sheffield on the UK map.

### 4) Budget and plans for exchange visit

There is 6 months left of this funding round. With the UK general election and Brexit negotiations the possibility of new funding will be investigated in the new year.

What we do know is that the funding will run out in June. Spending commitments are still going forward for the following: Birmingham meeting, request from Cardiff to do outreach work in China, Glasgow request for student visits. This leaves ~5-10 thousand to spend. A portion of which will be used to fund travel for the next face-to-face meeting but leaves room for more exchange visits. A request was made for collaborators to request more exchange visits. We could sustain one or two more visits in addition to the face-to-face meeting.

**5) AOB**

Hong Qi made some comments about the winter school, in addition to the language barrier it would be beneficial to let students know to communicate with their supervisors everyday. This is for the students well being in case for whatever reason they don't show up to university on any particular day. Would it be possible to let students know about these things. **Solution:** For future visits we make a list of things students should be aware of when they come - a guideline to enhance communication. Putting our collective experience together to send some points to go into the guideline. Jordan to collate these points.

Regarding future funding: If there is an opportunity then when applying for funding will this be a collaborative effort? **Solution:** We are hoping that the last meeting will contain a grant writing exercise report for WP. The words used in these could be followed up when doing funding requests.

The meeting finishes with well wishes for the holiday season.