

Space Science Seminar
Tuesday, 2015 June 16
10:30 a.m.
NSSTC/2096

**The Imaging X-ray Explorer (IXPE): An
International Collaboration**

Dr. Martin Weisskopf/Astrophysics, NASA/MSFC, on Behalf of the IXPE
Collaboration

The Imaging X-ray Explorer is a mission that has been proposed to NASA in response to a Small-Explorer call for proposals. IXPE uses X-ray polarimetry to dramatically expand observation space and to provide new input to our understanding as to how X-ray emission is produced in objects such as neutron stars, pulsar wind nebulae, and stellar and supermassive black holes. The two-year mission is very low-risk, making use of mature flight elements that combine the expertise for X-ray optics at Marshall Space Flight Center and the development of polarization-sensitive detectors in Italy at the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Pisa and the Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica, Rome. The proposal is led by a team with extensive mission experience, in X-ray astronomy and especially X-ray polarimetry. Instrument performance and scientific capability will be discussed.

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