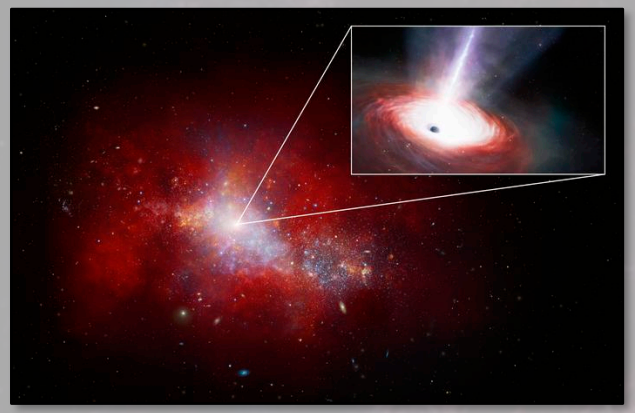
Third Early Career Workshop

Sep 22-24, 2026

Structure of the workshop

Day 1

Science



Day 2

Missions & Technology

Day 3

Careers

Day 3:

Careers

1:00 PM	Welcome & Plan for the Day	Brian Humensky (GSFC)
1:05 PM	**Internships and Other Opportunities at NASA Centers**	Katie McKee (GSFC)
1:30 PM	NASA Programs for Students & Postdocs	Nino Cucchiara (NASA, HQ)
1:55 PM	Break	
2:00 PM	**Building a Better CV: Practical Steps for Career Growth**	Tiffany Lewis (MTU)
2:55 PM	Break	
3:00 PM	**AI/ML in Astrophysics Research** (& AI/ML STIG)	Jay Wadekar (UT Austin)
3:15 PM	**The Responsible Use of AI/ML in Research** Panel: * Current trends: How AI is being used in daily research workflows. * Practical applications: How you can use AI to enhance your research. * Best practices: What you should and should not do when using AI/ML tools.	Panelists: Jay Wadekar (UT Austin) Ryan McClelland (GSFC) Cecilia Garraffo (CfA, AstroAI) Matt Craigie (JPL) Aaron Johnson (MSFC)
4:00 PM	Closing Remarks	

1 - What kind of practical resources have you used in developing or refining your CV?

- What kind of information can you learn from other people's CVs?
- Whose CVs do you think would be most helpful to look at?
  - Whom is it appropriate to ask for a CV from?
  - Does timing matter?
- Whom would you ask to read over your CV?
  - What kinds of comments do you expect? (This is a normal role for an advisor, but leave time for drafts and revisions.)

2 - Strategic Self-Evaluation and Skill Development

Examine your skillset critically, but fairly. Run your self-evaluation past a mentor at least once a year in connection with your goals and aspirations.

- What are your strengths and how can you better demonstrate them? (Usually this is making them more visible through your activities or in collaboration with a key person who could then write a letter, not bragging to random people - show, not tell.)
- Use your goals to learn what skills you need to further develop.
  - What are you missing now that you don't want to be missing in 3 years?
  - How are you going to grow those skills?

3 - Guiding Questions for Your Career Trajectory

What are some things that different positions might be looking for and what is their relative importance? If you know you will need a skill much later, but not for your next position, should you wait to acquire it?

- Publications have levels (e.g. announcements, white papers, peer-reviewed); there are also levels of authorship (e.g. first author, major contributor, alphabetized contributor).
  - How can you draw attention to the important papers in your record on your CV?
  - How do you explain what you contributed for larger papers?
- Proposals, fellowships or other funding you have won.
  - When do these become important aspects of your CV?
  - How can you start to work toward adding them?
- What awards are you eligible for?
  - How are nominations made and who could nominate you?
- Presentations can translate to more exposure.
  - What are the loop holes for giving more presentations at larger conferences and how can you take advantage of them?
  - How are invitations generated for invited talks and how do people get on those lists?

3 - Guiding Questions for Your Career Trajectory

- Teaching at the faculty level (usually not before unless you want a teaching fellowship) you are expected to have opinions on pedagogical methods, which are developed from trying them out.
  - What opportunities do you have or can you create to implement teaching innovations?
  - What opportunities do you have to learn more about them?
- Community participation (e.g. review papers or proposals, chair a session, lead something).
  - When is it appropriate for you to get involved in the community?
  - What opportunities are currently available to you?
  - How can you create opportunities to work alongside more senior folks outside your direct research area in order to grow your reputation?

4 - Building Your Professional Reputation

How do you build a reputation in the field you want to work in? Who do you want to be in your network and how will you get them there?

- How can you make yourself more visible in your field?
- What activities or projects do you want to be known for and how will you get the word out beyond publishing papers?

Thank you!

- **This workshop has been amazing because of your participation and questions: THANK YOU attendees and presenters!**
- Presentations and recordings will be ALL available online:
  we will notify you when posted and ask for your **feedback** on this workshop.
- If you like a certificate of participation please send us an email with the spelling of the name.
- Each attendee **will be subscribed** to the Physics of the Cosmos email list so we can keep you informed of our activities.

Feedback Survey

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