

Key Team Members

Miles Skow | NASA Astrophysics Program Executive

Miles Skow is the NASA Program Executive for the Fornax Initiative and the [Astrophysics Archives for Mission Data](#). He also serves as Program Executive for the Roman Space Telescope within NASA's Astrophysics Strategic Missions Program ([ASMP](#)).

Sanaz Vahidinia | NASA Astrophysics Program Scientist

Sanaz Vahidinia is the NASA Program Scientist for the Fornax Initiative within NASA's Astrophysics Strategic Missions Program ([ASMP](#)).

John Hartnett | Fornax Initiative Manager

Tess Jaffe | Fornax Initiative Lead Scientist

Tess Jaffe is the Fornax Initiative Lead Scientist. She is an astrophysicist in the [HEASARC/LAMBDA](#) data center at GSFC to support both the high energy astrophysics and CMB communities, and serves as the Chief Archive Scientist for HEASARC. She has previously worked in software support for high energy astrophysics missions before pursuing a PhD project studying the shape of the Universe using the CMB anisotropies.

Abdu Zoghbi | HEASARC Fornax Lead

Abdu Zoghbi is a Staff Scientist at NASA's High Energy Astrophysics Science Archive Research Center ([HEASARC](#)). He is the Fornax Lead for HEASARC and also leads the development of Fornax's Science Environments (data analysis software container images). His research interests include AGN and time-domain astronomy and Machine Learning.

Vandana Desai | IRSA Fornax Lead

Vandana Desai is the Fornax Lead and also the Science Lead for the NASA/IPAC Infrared Science Archive ([IRSA](#)) at Caltech, where she drives scientific vision and strategic planning. Her mission is to empower the global astronomical community with the tools required to preserve and extend the scientific legacy of NASA's mission data. In addition, she holds the position of Head of Science Staff at [IPAC](#), which is home to 50 scientists with expertise across a wide range of fields, including the solar system, exoplanets, galaxy evolution, cosmology, infrared astrophysics, time-domain techniques, and multi-messenger astrophysics.

Sedona Price | Acting Mast Fornax Lead

Sedona Price is an Astronomical Data Scientist working in the Catalog Science Branch supporting the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes ([MAST](#)) at the Space Telescope Science Institute ([STSci](#)). She is the co-acting Fornax Lead for MAST, along with Susan Mullally. Her research interests focus on studying galaxy formation and evolution through distant galaxies' structures, as probed by their morphologies and kinematics.

Susan Mullally | Acting Mast Fornax Lead

Susan Mullally is the PI for the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes ([MAST](#)) at the Space Telescope Science Institute ([STSci](#)), where she is also a Mission Scientist in the Data Science Mission Office. She is the co-acting Fornax Lead for MAST, along with Sedona Price. She is an expert in archives, exoplanets, and white dwarf stars.

Gail Rohrbach | Lead Systems Engineer

Gail Rohrbach started on Fornax in August 2023 as the requirements systems engineer, and took on the added role of Lead Systems Engineer in September 2024. Prior to Fornax, Gail was part of [HEASARC](#), serving in the Swift, RXTE, and ROSAT Guest Observer Facilities, and of [IPAC](#), where she worked on the IRAS Faint Source Catalog and 2MASS projects. She has a B.S. in Physics and has experience in science support, data analysis, user support, and public outreach, prior to becoming a systems engineer.

Andrew Sawyers | Fornax Cloud Architect & Infrastructure Team Lead

Andrew Sawyers is the Core Team Lead and Chief Architect of the Fornax Science Console platform, driving innovation in open science and scientific computing. A passionate open-source advocate, Python programmer, and cloud-native architect, he specializes in building scalable, high-performance systems that empower researchers with cutting-edge technology. With a deep commitment to automation and repeatability using GitOps, Kubernetes, and DevSecOps, his team design and implement robust infrastructure that supports reproducible science and open collaboration.