



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ENRICO FERMI INSTITUTE



CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE EFI MINI-SYMPOSIUM “INTERSTELLAR MOLECULES”

Date: Friday, APRIL 20, 2007
TIME: 10:00 AM – 3:45 PM
Location: RESEARCH INSTITUTE BUILDING
5640 SOUTH ELLIS AVENUE - RI 480

Astronomy is *the* almighty science. “It got physics started by showing the beautiful simplicity of the motion of stars and planets” (Feynman Lecture I. 3-6). Now it is beginning to engulf chemistry by showing exquisite spectra! It has been observationally established that hydrogen in the Universe is more molecular than atomic, over 100 molecules exist abundantly in interstellar space, and molecules are essential for star formation. We here discuss some recent developments starting from the most fundamental H_3^+ , which plays *the* pivotal role in interstellar chemistry, to the diffuse interstellar bands, an enigma for astronomers for nearly 100 years, whose carriers are yet to be identified but are surely complex organic molecules.

Agenda (all talks are 30-minutes with 5-minutes for questions)

10:00 AM	Opening Remarks Jim Pilcher (UofC)	1:05 PM	“UV/Optical Observations of Diatomic Molecules in Diffuse and Translucent Clouds” Daniel E. Welty (UofC)
10:05 AM	“ H_3^+ A Tracer of the Cosmic Ray Ionization Rate in Diffuse Clouds” Benjamin J. McCall (Univ. of IL, Urbana-Champaign)	1:40 PM	“Molecular Anions in the Laboratory and in Space” Michael C. McCarthy (Harvard Univ)
10:40 AM	“Central Molecular Zone: the Treasure House of H_3^+ ” Takeshi Oka (UofC)	2:15 PM	Break
11:15 AM	“Masers as Probes of Interacting Supernova Remnants and Massive Star Formation in the Nuclear Disk of the Galaxy” Farhad Yusef-Zadeh (Northwestern University)	2:35 PM	“A Quest to Reveal the Signatures of Aromatic Compounds in Space” Robert J. McMahon, Univ. of WI
12:00 PM	Lunch talk “Mega-masers, Hubble Constant and Dark Energy” Fred K. Y. Lo (National Radio Astronomy Observatory)	3:10 PM	“Diffuse Interstellar bands: Ubiquitous Large Molecules in Diffuse and Translucent Clouds” Donald G. York (UofC)

Contacts: Don York: don@oddjob.uchicago.edu; Takeshi Oka: t-oka@uchicago.edu