



4 October 2017

Prof. Sultana N. Nahar, APS Fellow
Department of Astronomy
The Ohio State University
140 West 18th Avenue, McPherson Laboratory Columbus, OH 43210, USA

Dear Sultana

Subject: **Invitation to "A Star Was Born!" - A conference to celebrate the achievements of Mike Dopita, April 8-13, 2018.**

We are organizing a conference to celebrate the scientific achievements of Mike Dopita on April 8-13, 2018, at the Abbazia di Spineto (<http://www.abbaziadispineto.com/>). The meeting is entitled "A Star Was Born", and will cover Mike's favourite topics, from the physics of young stellar jets and outflows, the ISM, HII regions, planetary nebulae, supernova remnants, to galaxies (star formation, dynamical transformations, theoretical evolution), and AGN. The conference will include theorists, computational modellers, and observers. The conference is invitation-only and we are inviting key experts in each area. I am delighted to invite you to join us at this conference. You may either give a presentation on a topic of your choice, chair a session on your topic of expertise, or be a panel member for one of the discussions. To stimulate discussion and cross-fertilization, we encourage all speakers to present new research and ideas, rather than reviews of a given field or topic. There will be ample time for questions and discussion to facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas across the different topics.

The venue is fantastic - it is gorgeous and has gourmet food and wine (including delicious meats that are cured in-house). The cost is € 928,00 per person (single room) or € 728,00 per person (twin share), which includes accommodation for 5 nights, including breakfast, lunch, dinners, and refreshments. We will be organizing a full-day excursion to Montepulciano which will include a tasting session of local wines, for an additional fee.

Buses will be organised to take participants from Florence airport to Abbazia di Spineto on April 8 (evening), and to return participants to Florence airport on April 13 (afternoon), if needed.

If you are able to attend the conference, please fill out the attached registration form, and return the form along with your answers to the following questions by Dec 10 to Robyn.McBride@anu.edu.au. We will forward your registration forms to the Abbazia and follow up to ensure receipt.

1. I would/would not be willing to chair a session during the meeting.
2. I would/would not be willing to be a panel member during the discussion on my topic of expertise.
3. I would/would not be interested in giving a talk titled "Enter your talk title here".

4. I would/would not like to take part in the excursion to Montepulciano (an additional fee applies, exact cost TBC)

5. I do/do not need a bus seat to Abbazia di Spineto from Florence airport on 8 April, 2018 (note an additional fee applies for the bus ticket).

6. I do/do not need a bus seat from Abbazia di Spineto to Florence airport on 13 April, 2018 (note an additional fee applies for the bus ticket).

We hope to see you at the Abbazia in April 2018 to celebrate Mike's achievements!

Cheers,



Lisa Kewley
on behalf of the organizing committee
(Mike's former and current students and postdocs).

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