



ICRANet



**UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE**

COOPERATION PROTOCOL

between

**INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RELATIVISTIC ASTROPHYSICS NETWORK
(ICRANet)**

and

**UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE
(UWC)**

The International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (ICRANet), represented by its Director, **Prof. Remo Ruffini**, and the University of the Western Cape (UWC), represented by its Rector, **Prof. Tyrone Brian Pretorius**, agree to establish this Cooperation Protocol which is governed by the following clauses:

FIRST:

The main objectives of this Cooperation Protocol are to promote the development and dissemination of scientific and technological research in the fields of cosmology, gravitation and relativistic astrophysics between ICRANet and UWC.

SECOND:

The activities to be undertaken under this Cooperation Protocol will consist of joint actions involving one or more of the following items:

- I – The institutional exchange of graduate, post-graduate students, researchers and faculty members of ICRANet and UWC;
- II – The development of teaching and/or research activities related to the areas of expertise and interest of ICRANet and UWC;
- III – The organization of symposia, seminars, conferences and short courses on topics and areas of expertise and interest of ICRANet and UWC;
- IV – The promotion and support of technical-scientific and cultural events and activities open to the public;

V – The development of opportunities to form university teachers and researchers, by means of specialized advanced high-level courses in areas of interest and expertise of ICRANet and UWC;

VI –The organization of training and recycling courses and activities as well as the developing of inter-institutional research areas associated to local graduate programs;

VII –The promotion of joint publications;

VIII – Implementation of socially oriented activities through the academic extension;

IX – Exchange of information concerning teaching and research activities in both institutions signatory of this Cooperation Protocol;

X – Make applications to the international grant programs to promote joint research projects or implement mobility exchange programs.

THIRD:

The implementation of the activities envisaged by the contracting parties will be specified by means of Work Plans relative to this Cooperation Protocol, to be signed by the contracting parties at the time of definition of common projects, areas of research and education, or any other activities of mutual interest.

FOURTH:

The institutions signatories of this Cooperation Protocol shall adopt, as a general principle, and to the extent of their budgetary possibilities, the financing of academic actions carried out by this Cooperation Protocol. In the specific case of exchange of professional between the signatory institutions, the visiting institution shall endeavor efforts to cover transportation expenses of their students, professors and technicians while the hosting institution may cover their living expenses. To finance such expenses, participants must apply to granting agencies and other national or international institutions.

Students, professors, researchers and administrative staff taking part in exchange activities must have health insurance valid during those activities paid by the visiting part.

FIFTH:

When activities originating from this Cooperation Protocol result in products, improvements or innovations, subject to rights, both parties will establish - according to the law and to proper regulatory legislation, by means of specific Cooperation Protocol's and proportionally to the contribution of each institution - the conditions that will regulate property rights.



SIXTH:

The activities developed within the scope of this Cooperation Protocol will be carried by members of both parties, appointed by each institution, according to the nature of the activities in each project, the parties being allowed to rely upon the support of external organizations.

An overall coordinator will be appointed for each of the signing Institutions in order to monitor and supervise the implementation and progress of programs and projects related to the present Cooperation Protocol and to establish plans for the future of this cooperation.

For UWC: Prof. Tyrone Brian Pretorius, Rector of UWC;

For ICRANet: Prof. Remo Ruffini, Director of ICRANet;

The coordinators will meet at least once a year or by electronic means (such as e-conference), or through visits to partner institutions.

SEVENTH:

This Cooperation Protocol will be valid for 5 (five) years, starting from the date of its signature. It may be extended for another 5 (five) years through a mutual undertaking and an exchange of letters between the signatories.

EIGHTH:

This Cooperation Protocol may be canceled by either of the parties, by means of a notification at least 60 (sixty) days in advance – which may be waived if both parties come to a consensual agreement – being advisable, however, to attempt to ensure that ongoing activities are maintained.

NINTH:

Any necessary modification to the present Cooperation Protocol must be stated in Additional Terms that will be negotiated between the parties, without prejudice to ongoing activities.

In particular this Cooperation Protocol could be extended to other partnerships, through the express agreement of the parties through an Additional Term.

TENTH:

The parties agree to abide by the South African Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act 4 of 2013 as well as any other applicable legislation in South Africa

relating to data protection. The parties specifically agree that no personal data will be transferred without the express consent of the data subject and/or the party who is the lawful data processor. The parties further agree that any breach of personal data will immediately be reported to the other party to comply with the applicable data protection legislation.

ELEVENTH:

This Cooperation Protocol is not intended to create limiting or legal obligations on either party but is intended to guide and promote the co-operation. To avoid any dispute, it is recorded that this Cooperation Protocol shall not impose any binding obligation on either party. Where disputes arise, resolutions shall be sought through an amicable process, failing this, arbitration shall be binding on both parties. Matters pertaining to the implementation of the collaborations or projects based on and identified in this co-operation shall be negotiated and agreed by representatives of the two parties, in separate agreements / addenda.

TWELFTH:

For purposes of this Cooperation Protocol, the parties establish their addresses as:

ICRANet: ICRANet Coordinating Center: Piazza della Repubblica, 10, 65122 Pescara, Italy;

UWC: Robert Sobukwe Road, Bellville, 7535 - Republic of South Africa

through which the correspondence held between with respect to the interpretation and enforcement of this Cooperation Protocol should be formalized.

THIRTEENTH:

All terms having been agreed upon, the representatives of the parties signed the present Cooperation Protocol. This Cooperation Protocol may be executed in any number of original or electronic counterparts and each of such original or electronic counterparts shall for all purposes be deemed to be an original, and all such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument.

(signature page to follow)



PROF. TYRONE BRIAN PRETORIUS
Rector and Vice-Chancellor UWC



PROF. REMO RUFFINI
Director of ICRANet

Date: March 1, 2022

Date: February 24, 2022



PROF. ROY MAARTENS
Prof. in Astronomy & Astrophysics, UWC



PROF. NAREK SAHAKYAN
Director of ICRANet Seat in Armenia

Date: 1 March, 2022

Date: February 24, 2022