

Biography



Michel Fich

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Mike Fich is an astronomer specializing in studies of star formation, the interstellar medium, and the structure of galaxies. His recent research activities have focused on “small scale” formation studies of low and intermediate mass stars, circumstellar disks, and the formation of proto-solar systems. A faculty member at the University of Waterloo since 1986, Dr. Fich received a B.Sc. from Waterloo in 1978 and M.A (1981) and Ph.D. (1983) degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He then spent three years as a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Washington in Seattle.

During the past decade much of Dr. Fich’s efforts have been devoted to astronomical instrumentation projects, primarily at sub-mm/far-infrared wavelengths. He is currently the Canadian leader in (1) the HIFI instrument on the Herschel Space Observatory, an ESA/NASA/CSA project; (2) SCUBA-2, a wide-field submillimeter camera for the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawaii; and (3) CCAT, a large (25 meter diameter) submillimeter telescope planned to be built at an elevation of 5600 meters in the Atacama region of Chile by an international team including Cornell University, the California Institute of Technology, the University of Colorado, the University of Cologne, and a growing number of Canadian universities. Dr. Fich is also working on new projects that are still in early development stages and that involve a variety of space satellite missions.

Dr. Fich grew up in Southern Ontario, lives in rural Erin Township in a low-tech solar and ground-source heated innovative-designed home. He is the father of two brilliant sons who have grown up and moved on to professions in areas of modern high-technology. His principle hobbies, outside of astronomy, are in music (especially playing his guitars), wilderness canoeing and growing roses. He volunteers in several community organizations.