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School of Space Exploration Aims to Train Next-Generation Deep-Space Talents



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Learn more



On January 27 in Huairou District, Beijing the inauguration ceremony of the School of Space Exploration at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) is held at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the "Two Bombs, One Satellite" Memorial Hall. [IMAGE: CHINA NEWS SERVICE]

University of Chinese Academy of Sciences unveils School of Space Exploration

On January 27 in Huairou District, Beijing the inauguration ceremony of the School of Space Exploration at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) is held at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the "Two Bombs, One Satellite" Memorial Hall.

In 1957, Qian Xuesen, a founding father of China's "Two Bombs, One Satellite" project, proposed the idea of establishing a school dedicated to space exploration. Nearly 70 years later, this vision has become a reality. On January

27, UCAS officially unveiled the School of Space Exploration at the memorial hall in Huairou District, Beijing — setting sail from a birthplace of China's space program and the "Two Bombs, One Satellite" spirit.

The next 10 to 20 years represent a critical window for leapfrog development in China's space exploration sector. Fundamental original research and technological breakthroughs will reshape the landscape of deep-space exploration and determine national core competitiveness. The establishment of the UCAS School

of Space Exploration will provide strong talent support for China's major strategic needs in deep-space exploration and space science research.

Zhou Qi, Vice President of CAS and President of UCAS, noted that as humanity advances toward the Moon, Mars, and beyond the solar system, the School of Space Exploration must develop its own strategic vision, planning, and long-term blueprint.

Zhu Junqiang, Director General of

CAS's Bureau of Major Science and Technology Projects and the Bureau of Strategic High-tech Development, has been appointed Dean of the School. He stated that the School of Space Exploration will be developed into three major hubs: a center for foundational aerospace research within CAS, a hub for cultivating high-level innovative talent, and a platform for open international academic exchange.

In November 2025, UCAS decided to establish the School of Space Exploration. It will build a curriculum system covering 14 first-level disciplines and program cat-

egories, including aerospace science and technology and planetary science. On the basis of 97 existing courses, 22 new core courses will be added, covering frontier areas such as space power and propulsion principles, perception and utilization of the space environment, planetary dynamics and habitability, and space sociology and governance — achieving deep integration of science, technology, and application.

In terms of teaching practice, the School will rely on three types of existing platforms in Beijing Huairou Science City — frontier science, key technologies, and strategic applications — and will also establish six distinctive platforms, in-

cluding an intelligent unmanned aerial vehicle patrol simulation platform, a full-process teaching and practice platform for space science satellites, and an interstellar flight ground-space coordinated experimental teaching and innovation platform, providing students with an immersive training environment.

Following the unveiling ceremony, the first plenary meeting of the Teaching and Training Steering Committee for the Space Exploration Talent Cultivation Program was also held on the same day.

Source: Chinese Academy of Sciences

CAS launches global fusion research program

On November 24, the launch ceremony of the International Science Program on Fusion Burning Plasma by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), along with the release of the research plan for the BEST (Burning Plasma Experimental Superconducting Tokamak) Compact Fusion Energy Experimental Device, was held in the BEST facility hall at Hefei Future Science City. Scientists from more than ten countries, including France and the United Kingdom, jointly signed the *Hefei Declaration on Fusion*, calling on the global community to work together to ignite the “artificial sun”.

Scientists in the field of fusion research noted that after decades of cooperation and development, global fusion research

has achieved a series of major breakthroughs. However, significant challenges remain, making it essential to pool the wisdom and strength of scientists worldwide and to carry out more pragmatic, close-knit, and open international exchanges and cooperation. They proposed promoting open collaboration and encouraging fusion researchers worldwide to conduct joint research in Hefei, in order to collectively create a promising future for fusion energy and realize humanity’s ultimate energy dream.

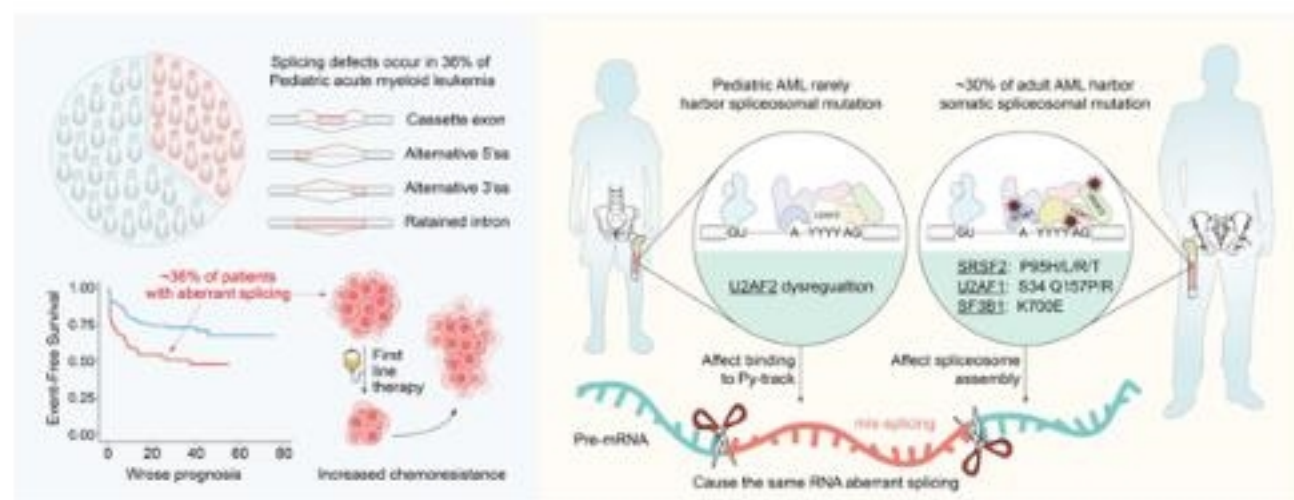
The Hefei Institutes of Physical Science of CAS will continue to advance the implementation of the International Science Program on Fusion Burning Plasma and promote open research on large-scale fusion facilities. Efforts will focus on build-

ing an open innovation ecosystem and a science and technology cooperation network with global competitiveness and international influence, working together with domestic and international peers in the fusion field to accelerate the transition of fusion research from scientific experimentation to engineering application, and making new and greater contributions to global fusion research.

Liu Weidong, Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation of CAS, attended the event and announced the official launch of the CAS International Science Program on Fusion Burning Plasma.

Source: Chinese Academy of Sciences

Scientists reveal splicing-based mechanism driving therapy resistance in pediatric acute myeloid leukemia



Pediatric acute myeloid leukemia (AML) is one of the most common acute leukemias in children. While treatment outcomes have improved in recent years, approximately 30 percent of patients relapse following initial chemotherapy and face poor survival prospects. Known resistance-associated mutations account for only a small fraction of these cases, leaving the molecular mechanisms underlying therapy resistance in most pediatric AML patients unclear.

To fill this knowledge gap, research teams led by Professors Wang Qianfei and Liu Zhaoqi from the China National Center for Bioinformation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with researchers from the Children's Hospital of Soochow University, analyzed transcriptome sequencing data from 702 pediatric AML patients. The team identified sequence-dependent ribonucleic acid (RNA) splicing abnormalities in roughly 36 percent of the cases. Here, "sequence-dependent" means that the RNA splicing abnormalities occurred only at certain splicing sites — specifically, those that required optimal function of a certain protein

to splice correctly. The splicing abnormalities were strongly linked to lower complete remission rates and poorer overall survival — indicating a key role in disease progression and treatment response.

The findings were published in *Cell Reports Medicine* on January 20.

Notably, nearly 90 percent of these aberrant splicing events have been previously shown to promote tumorigenesis and are typically induced by splicing factor mutations in adult AML. However, such mutations are rare in pediatric AML.

Mechanistic investigations by the team revealed that functional dysregulation of the protein U2 small nuclear RNA auxiliary factor 2 (U2AF2) — rather than genetic mutation — is the primary driver of aberrant splicing in pediatric AML. These pathological splicing events preferentially occur at intronic splice sites with weak polypyrimidine tracts, making them highly sensitive to modest fluctuations in U2AF2 activity.

Importantly, pharmacological modulation of protein arginine methyltransferase (PRMT) enzymes partially restored normal splicing patterns and

enhanced treatment responses in leukemia cells, pointing to a potential therapeutic strategy for overcoming drug resistance.

This study systematically defines a U2AF2-driven splicing-dysregulation-driven subtype in a large pediatric AML cohort, uncovers its link to therapy resistance, and proposes a feasible pharmacological intervention, the researchers noted.

An overview of widespread splicing dysregulation in pediatric AML, reveals adult AML like splicing abnormalities associated with poor prognosis and therapy resistance, despite the absence of splicing factor mutations commonly seen in adults.

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Chinese Academy of Sciences

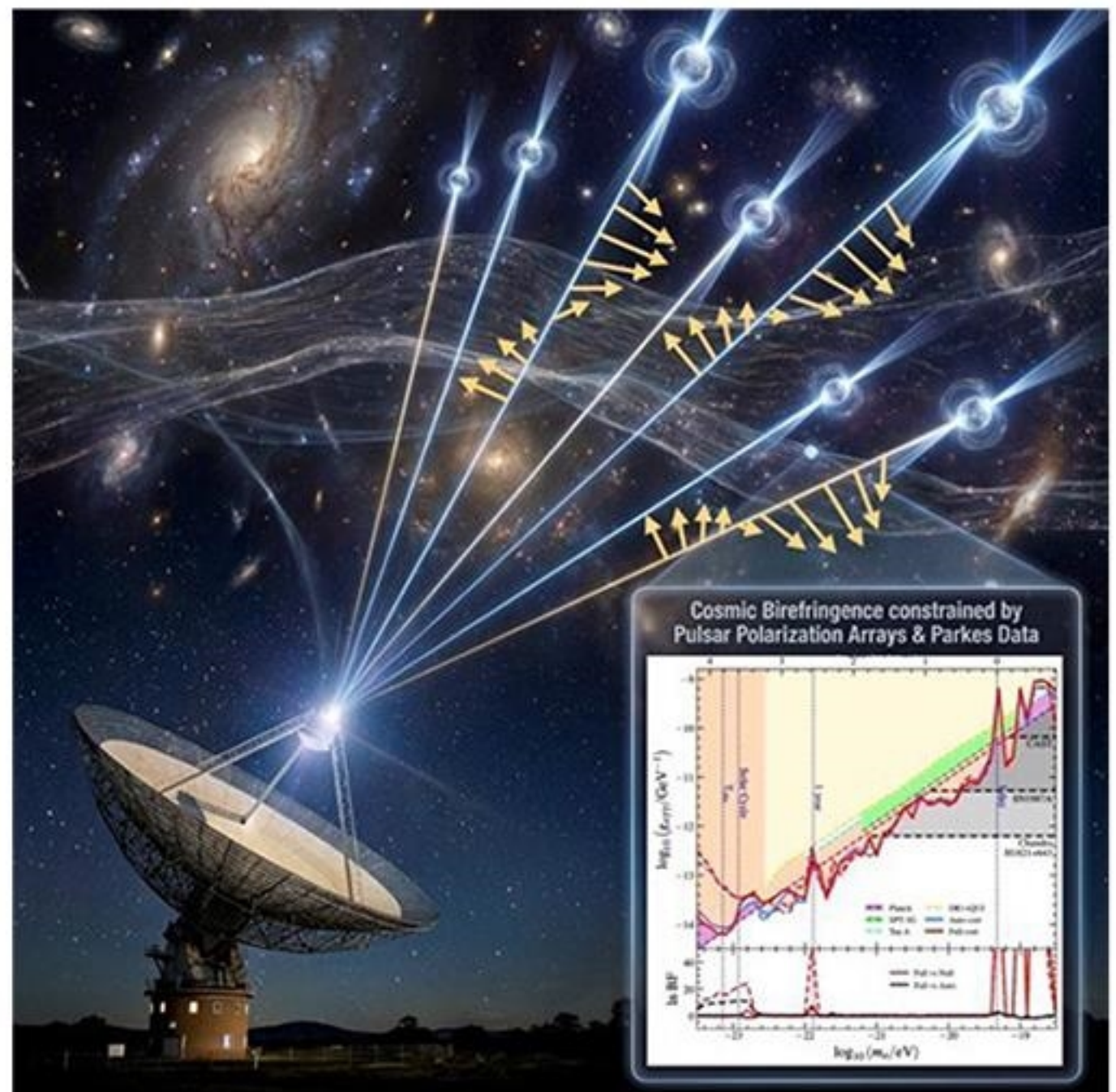
Source: China National Center for Bioinformation,
Chinese Academy of Sciences

First pulsar polarization array limits on ultralight axion-like dark matter

Recently, Professor Ren Jing from the Institute of High Energy Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), along with collaborators and in partnership with the Parkes Pulsar Timing Array (PPTA) collaboration in Australia, successfully performed the first-ever “pulsar polarization array” (PPA) analysis to detect ultralight axion-like dark matter. By leveraging long-term polarization data from the PPTA, the research team established the most stringent observational upper limits to date on the Chern Simons coupling strength between ultralight ALDM and the electromagnetic field within the “fuzzy” mass range. The findings were published in *Physical Review Letters* (Phys. Rev. Lett. 136, 011001 (2026)) on January 7 and were selected as an “Editors’ Suggestion” paper. For nearly a century, dark matter has posed one of the most profound mysteries in cosmology. Ultralight ALDM stands out among potential candidates due to its unique wave-like nature on astronomical scales, stemming from its minuscule mass. The PPA, a network of linearly polarized pulsars within the Galaxy, is exceptionally suited for detecting ultralight ALDM by cross-correlating pulsar polarization data. Due to “cosmological birefringence”, an effect induced by the ALDM Chern-Simons coupling, the linearly polarized light of PPA pulsars is predicted to ripple with a distinct wave-like oscillation, while traveling inside the Galactic halo. Building on nearly two decades of polarization observations from the Parkes Pulsar Timing Array, the research team sys-

tematically conducted the first search for ultralight ALDM using a pulsar polarization array. To accomplish this pioneering task, the team developed an advanced Bayesian analysis framework that involved constructing time series of pulsar polarization angle residuals, establishing an effective noise model, and performing cross-correlation analyses between pulsars. The results show that the constraints on the Chern Simons coupling strength provided by

the Parkes PPA surpass all previous limits based on axion-like dark matter hypotheses over a broad mass range, particularly setting the most stringent bounds in the “fuzzy” mass region. The study also demonstrates that cross-correlation analysis between pulsars plays a crucial role in discriminating the nature of potential signals. This work marks a leap forward in using novel



By cross-correlating pulsar polarization data within the galaxy, the PPTA collaboration sets the most sensitive limits on how strongly “Fuzzy” axionlike dark matter can interact with Chern-Simons coupling. [IMAGE: IHEP]

astronomical methods to explore the nature of dark matter.

The co-first authors of the paper are Dr. Xue Xiao from the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Spain, and Dr. Dai Shi, the Parks Lead Scientist, Australia. The corresponding authors are Professor Liu Tao from the Hong Kong

University of Science and Technology and Professor Ren Jing from CAS's Institute of High Energy Physics.

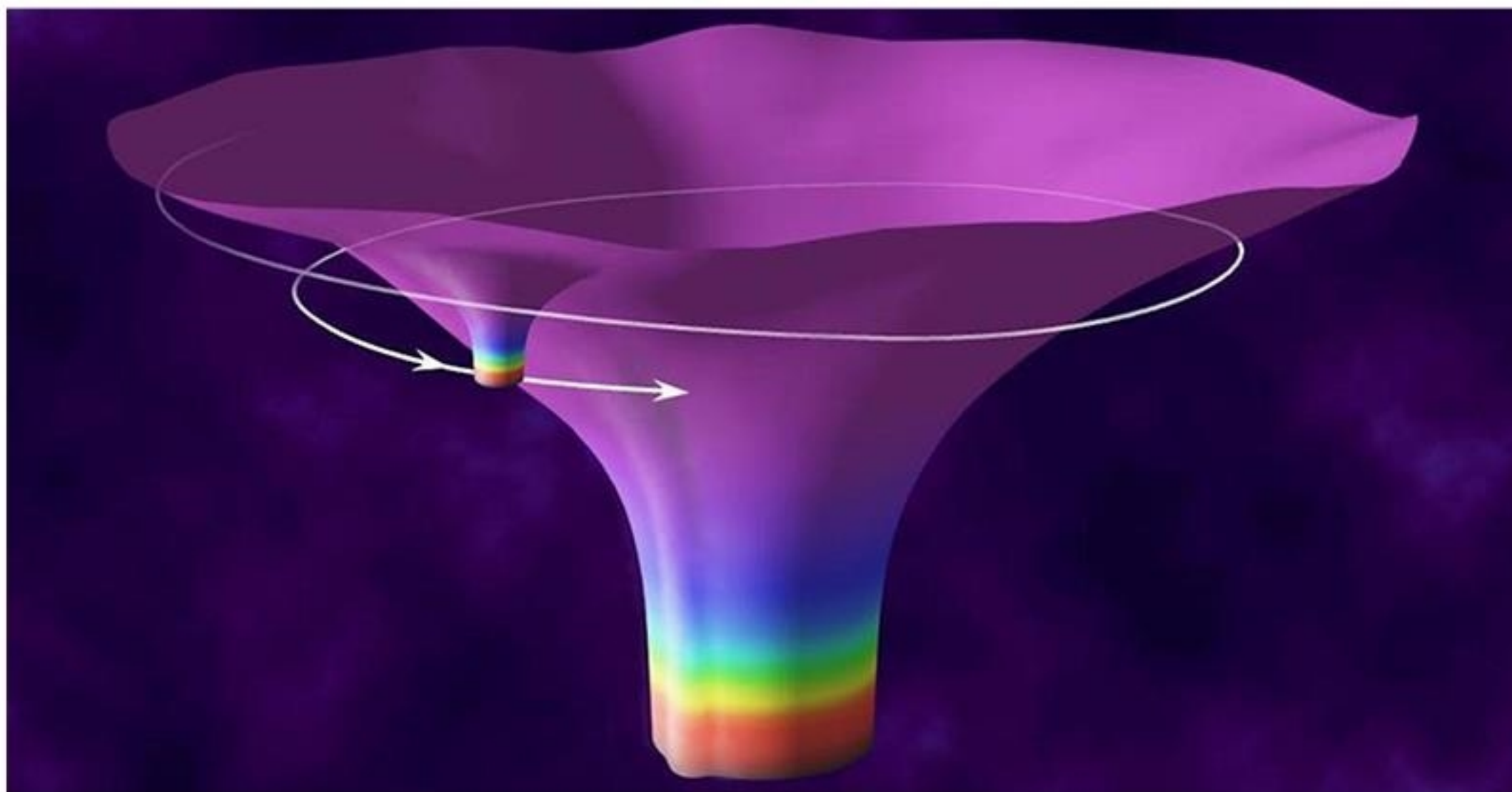
By cross-correlating pulsar polarization data within the galaxy, the PPTA collaboration sets the most sensitive limits on how strongly “Fuzzy” axionlike dark matter can interact with Chern-Simons coupling.

For more information, please contact: Jia Yinghua

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Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Source: Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences



Extreme mass-ratio inspiral system, where a small black hole continuously perturbs the gravitational field of a large black hole to generate gravitational waves. [IMAGE: SHAO]

Breakthrough in gravitational wave calculation

Gravitational waves are often described as ripples in spacetime. Just as a fish thrashing in a calm pond creates ripples that spread across the water's surface, the violent motion of black holes can also stir spacetime, generating these ripples — gravitational waves. One way to make a black hole produce gravitational waves is by perturbing it, which can be likened to imagining the black hole as a musical instrument and “plucking” it to generate waves. This perturbation can be achieved by directly colliding with the black hole or acting upon it from a distance, as the black hole severely warps the spacetime around it, allowing disturbance without direct contact. A typical scenario is when a smaller black hole

orbits a central, much larger black hole (known as an extreme mass-ratio inspiral, EMRI), continuously “playing” the larger black hole and producing gravitational waves.

To calculate the gravitational waves produced in such typical scenarios, scientists have developed the theory of black hole perturbation for research. However, precisely and efficiently using black hole perturbation theory to compute gravitational waves remains a challenge. Currently, the most common black holes in astrophysics are spinning Kerr black holes, whose perturbations are described by the Teukolsky equation. For calculating the homogeneous solutions to this equation, there have primarily been two main methods. One

is the Sasaki-Nakamura method, which transforms the equation to overcome its shortcomings over long distances, then solves it using finite difference methods. The other is the semi-analytical Mano-Suzuki-Takasugi method, which constructs homogeneous solutions using hypergeometric functions. Current mainstream algorithms worldwide for computing gravitational waves from EMRIs are largely based on these two methods, such as those in the Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit developed by the team for the LISA (Laser Interferometer Space Antenna) space gravitational-wave detection mission initiated by the European Space Agency.

However, both methods have certain drawbacks. The former suffers from low accuracy and efficiency due to its reliance on numerical integration. The latter, while fast and accurate, has poor convergence — or even fails to converge — for cases with larger frequencies. These limitations hinder scientists' ability to rapidly generate high-precision gravitational waveforms. Addressing this challenge, the research group led by Han Wenbiao at the Shanghai Astronomical Observatory has proposed a new algorithm based on series expansion for solving the Teukolsky equation in black hole perturbation theory.

Following convention, this method has been named the Jiang-Han algorithm. “The new algorithm is tens to hundreds of times faster than the mainstream algorithms in the international Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit while maintaining the same accuracy,” explained Jiang Ye, the first author of the paper and a Ph.D. student at Shanghai Astronomical Observatory. “Crucially, our algorithm can be applied to arbitrary frequency ranges, even complex frequencies.” The achievement is recently published in *Physical Review D*.

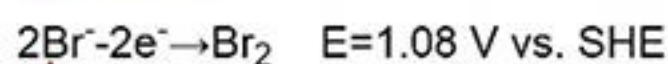
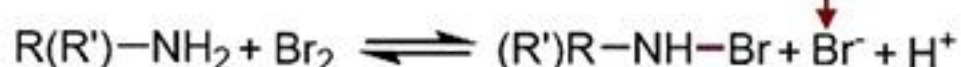
Currently, Han's group has built a fully relativistic gravitational wave calculation model for asymmetric binary systems based on this new method, which

is now the most precise and fastest fully relativistic waveform template. This template can be directly applied to data analysis for China's future space-based gravitational wave detection missions.

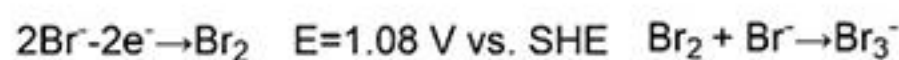
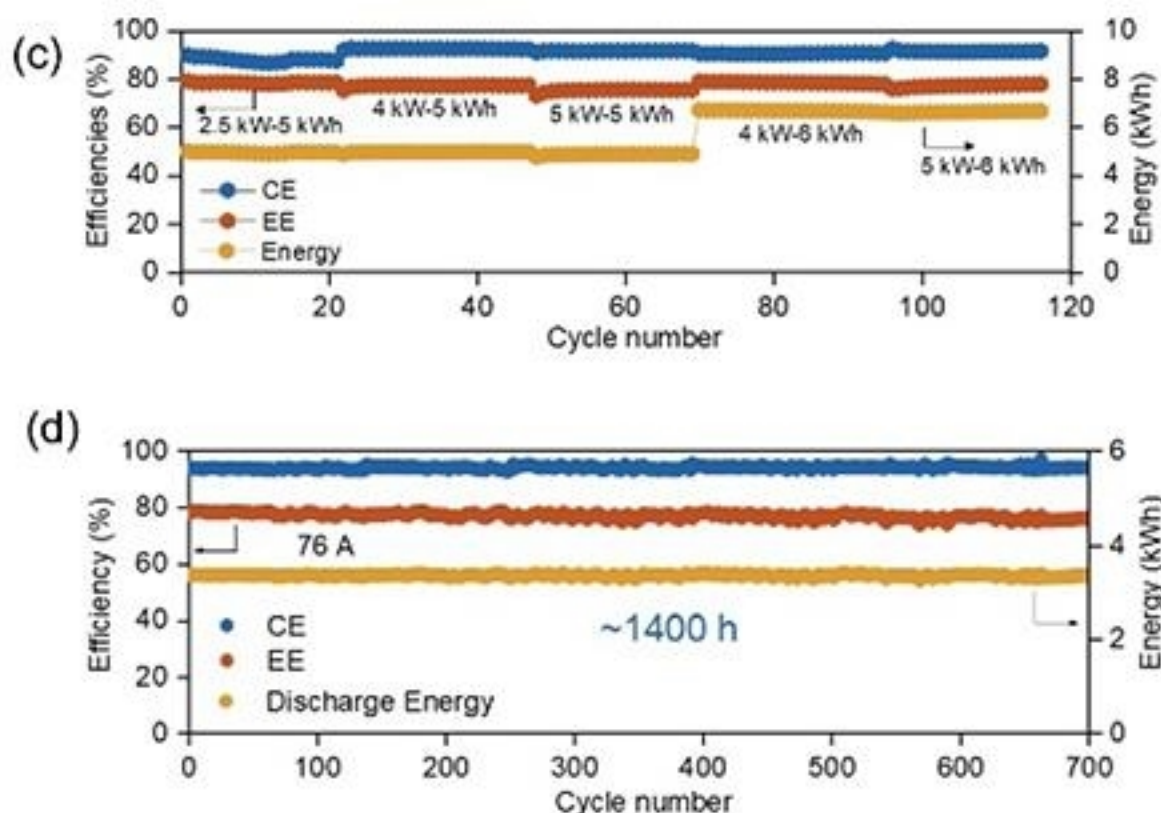
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Shanghai Astronomical Observatory,
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Source: Shanghai Astronomical Observatory,
Chinese Academy of Sciences

(a) **Our work**



Traditional Zn/Br



The principle and battery verification of the novel bromine-based two-electron transfer reaction system [IMAGE: XIE CONGXIN AND XU YUE]

Researchers develop new system for high-energy-density, long-life, multi-electron transfer bromine-based flow batteries

Bromine-based flow batteries operate through the redox reaction between bromide ions and elemental bromine, offering advantages such as abundant resources, high redox potential, and good solubility. However, the substantial bromine generated during the charging process can corrode battery components, shorten cycle life, and increase system costs. Although traditional bromine complexing agents can alleviate corrosion

to some extent, they often induce phase separation, compromising electrolyte homogeneity and adding complexity to the system.

In a recent study published in *Nature Energy*, a research team led by Professor Li Xianfeng from the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics (DICP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) developed a novel bromine-based two-electron transfer reaction system and applied it to a zinc-bromine flow battery.

This study demonstrates both the proof of concept and the system-scale up of a long-life zinc-bromine flow battery.

Researchers proposed an innovative bromine two-electron transfer reaction by introducing amine compounds as bromine scavengers into the electrolyte. They discovered that the bromine (Br_2) generated during the electrochemical reaction could be converted into brominated amine

compounds, reducing the concentration of Br_2 in the solution to an ultra-low level of approximately 7 mM. Unlike the traditional single-electron transfer reaction from bromide ions to Br_2 , this new reaction enables a two-electron transfer from bromide ions to brominated amine compounds, increasing the battery's energy density. Simultaneously, the ultra-low Br_2 concentration substantially reduces electrolyte corrosivity, extending battery life.

Furthermore, researchers applied this novel reaction to zinc-bromine flow bat-

teries. Due to the extremely low Br_2 concentration in the electrolyte, the long-term stable operation was achieved by assembling a single battery using a conventional non-fluorinated ion exchange membrane (SPEEK), thereby reducing battery costs. In a 5 kW system scale-up test, the battery operated stably for over 700 cycles under a current density of 40 mA cm^{-2} , achieving an energy efficiency above 78 percent. With the drastically reduced Br_2 concentration, no corrosion was observed in key materials — including current collectors, electrodes, and membranes — either before or after cycling.

“Our study provides a novel approach to the design of long-life bromine-based flow batteries and lays the foundation for the further application and promotion of zinc-bromine flow batteries,” said Professor Li.

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Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics,
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Source: Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics,
Chinese Academy of Sciences



Summary of PIFI program

My life in China has been a most unforgettable and meaningful experience. Not least because this PIFI program has given me the chance to get in touch with a lot of new technical progress and inventions.

Firstly, working with Professor Yan of the Institute of Process Engineering of the Chinese Academy of Sciences

(CAS) is a very pleasant experience. The Yan group has much expertise in the development of peptide or protein vehicles for cellular delivery. My group has expertise in the design and development of capsid of cowpea chlorotic mottle virus (CCMV)-based nanoreactors. This research project optimally benefits from the expertise of both research partners. By joining forces new

therapeutic modalities can be designed in which fully protein-based multicompartment systems are used to introduce enzyme nanoreactors effectively into living cells to correct dysfunctional processes, or to add a novel function. Several goals were achieved under the support of this project.



Secondly, thanks to the invitation from Professor Yan of CAS and Professor Li of CAS, I could share our recent works with them. I respectively covered two different topics in the lecture. In Yan's group, my report title was "Polymersomes with topological control for biomedical applications",

where I showed the topological variability of polymersomes, and how this can be conceptually applied in the biomedical field. In Li's group, I shared the topic of employing stimulus-responsive nanoparticles for photodynamic therapy (PDT).

Thirdly, I express my admiration and gratitude to the students in Yan's group and CAS. They are cute, humorous,

clever and assiduous. I respect their work and they are always professional.

Lastly, thanks for this project. I hope we may have the chance to cooperate in the future.

*Source: Institute of Process Engineering
Chinese Academy of Sciences*

Call guidelines for research fund for international scientists in 2026

Aimed at providing more research opportunities for and contributing to the career development of researchers at different academic stages, the Research Fund for International Scientists (hereinafter referred to as the RFIS) is set up by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) to support international scientists of foreign citizenship who are ready to conduct basic research and applied basic research in China’s mainland. The RFIS will also enhance the long-term, sustainable academic collaboration and exchange between Chinese and international scientists.

I. Program Description

1. Types of Grant

- The RFIS consists of three sub-types:
- (1) The Research Fund for International Young Scientists (RFIS-I)
 - (2) The Research Fund for International Excellent Young Scientists (RFIS-II)
 - (3) The Research Fund for International Senior Scientists (RFIS-III)

2. Funding Areas

The funding areas include: Mathematical and Physical Sciences(A), Chemical Sciences(B), Life Sciences(C), Earth Sciences(D), Engineering and Material Sciences(E), Information Sciences(F), Management Sciences(G), Health Sciences(H), and Interdisciplinary Sciences(T).

- (1) When selecting the application code, please choose the secondary application code (in 4 digits);
- (2) When filling in the application form, please enter the keywords accurately;
- (3) The applications in interdisciplinary sciences can only be submitted to the Research Fund for International Excellent Young Scientists (RFIS-II) and the Research Fund for International Senior Scientists (RFIS-III). For the applicants of interdisciplinary sciences, please first choose from the division codes T01~T05, and then select at least two application codes from A-H according to the research content when filling in the application form. For more details of the application codes, please refer to the *NSFC Guide to Programs 2026*.

3. Funding Amount

- (1) For the RFIS-I, the direct cost is 200,000 RMB per year (per project).
- (2) For the RFIS-II, the direct cost is 400,000 RMB per year (per project).
- (3) For the RFIS-III, the direct cost is 800,000 RMB per year (per project).

4. Project Duration

Applicants can apply for either one-year or two-year RFIS project. The one year project is expected to last from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027, while the two year project is expected to last from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2028.

II. Eligibility

The RFIS is aimed at international scientists who are ready to work at host institutions based on China’s mainland and registered with the NSFC. Specific requirements for applicants of each sub-type of the RFIS are as follows:

1. RFIS-I

- (1) Doctoral degree obtained within the past 6 years (Doctoral degree was obtained after January 1, 2020);
- (2) Experience of conducting basic research or postdoctoral research;
- (3) Commitment to work for no less than 9 months each year (calendar year) at the host institution during the implementation of the project;
- (4) Compliance with Chinese laws and NSFC’s relevant rules and regulations while conducting research in China;
- (5) The Agreement to Support the Application of RFIS-I shall be signed between the applicant and the host institution (If the applicant has a full-time position abroad at the time of application, the foreign employer institution should be informed).

2. RFIS-II

- (1) Doctoral degree completed within the past 15 year (Doctoral degree was obtained after January 1, 2011);
- (2) Senior academic title (Associate Professor or Higher level (or equivalent qualification));
- (3) Experience of conducting basic research projects as Principal Investigator (PI);
- (4) Commitment to work for no less than 9 months each year (calendar year) at the host institution during the implementation of the project;
- (5) Compliance with Chinese laws and NSFC’s relevant rules and regulations while conducting research in China;
- (6) The Agreement to Support the Application of RFIS-II shall be signed between the applicant and the host institution (If the applicant has a full-time position abroad at the time of application, the foreign employer institution should be informed).

3. RFIS-III

- (1) Senior academic title (Associate Professor or Higher level (or equivalent qualification));
- (2) Outstanding academic achievements and significant international influence;
- (3) Commitment to work for no less than 9 months per year (calendar year) at the host institution during the implementation of the project;
- (4) Compliance with Chinese laws and NSFC’s relevant rules and regulations while conducting research in China;
- (5) The Agreement to Support the Application of RFIS-III shall be signed between the applicant and the host institution (If the applicant has a full-time position abroad at the time of application, the foreign employer institution should be informed).

III. Additional Requirements for Eligibility

- 1. The applicant can be granted each sub-type of the RFIS only once.
- 2. The PI of an on-going grant of the RFIS cannot apply for a new RFIS project. The total number of application for the RFIS shall not exceed 1 for each year. If the applicant has submitted an application for any of the sub-types of the RFIS, the application shall not apply for the following programs in the same year:
 - Young Scientists Fund-Type C (the former Young Scientists Fund, YSF);
 - Young Scientists Fund-Type B (the former Excellent Young Scientists Fund, EYSF, including EYSF for scholars in Hong Kong and Macao);
 - Young Scientists Fund-Type A (the former National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, NSFDYS);
 - Science Fund for Creative Research Groups (SFCRG);
 - International Collaboration Fund for Creative Research Teams (ICFCRT).
- 3. An applicant shall not apply for the RFIS-I if the applicant has been the PI of an on-going or completed project of the RFIS-II, the RFIS-III, the ICFCRT, the Young Scientists Fund-Type C, the Young Scientists Fund-Type B, the Young Scientists Fund-Type A and the SFCRG.
- 4. An applicant shall not apply for the RFIS-II if the applicant has been the PI of an on-going or completed project of the RFIS-III, the ICFCRT, the Young Scientists Fund-Type B, the Young Scientists Fund-Type A and the SFCRG.
- 5. An applicant shall not apply for the RFIS-III if the applicant has been the PI of an on-going or completed project of the ICFCRT, the Young Scientists Fund-Type A and the SFCRG.
- 6. NSFC’s limit on the total number of projects applied and undertaken by one applicant does not apply to RFIS.
- 7. Other restrictions on the eligibility of applicants in the *NSFC Guide to Programs 2026*.

IV. Submission Instructions

1. Submission by the Applicants

- (1) Before completing the online application form, all applicants should read through this call guidelines as well as the relevant contents of the *NSFC Guide to Programs 2026* in detail. Proposals failing to meet the above mentioned requirements will not be accepted.
- (2) The proposal is required to be prepared in English, and the Title, Abstract and Keywords should be written in both English and Chinese.
- (3) Submission path: Log in to the NSFC’s Internet-based Science Information System (<https://grants.nsf.gov.cn/>), select “Application & Receipt”, and use the role of “Applicant for RFIS, ICFCRT”, then select “Application and Acceptance” - “Application” in the menu bar to enter the application interface. Click on “New Proposal”, to enter the page of Application in Preparation. Choose the sub-type (RFIS-I, RFIS-II or RFIS-III) and then select the research area of the applied project: “Application codes A-H” or “Division code T”. Please note that the call for RFIS-I is not open to applications in Interdisciplinary Sciences (T).
- (4) For budget preparation, the applicant shall carefully read the budget preparation requirements specified in the *Instructions on Application of the NSFC Guide to Programs 2026*, and the *Funds Management Measures for NSFC-Awarded Project* (<https://www.nsf.gov.cn/p1/3281/3286/3296/3323/70483.html>) and *Instruction of Budget Preparation for NSFC Projects*, and prepare the budget table truthfully based on the actual needs.
- (5) Upon completion of filling out the online application form, the applicant shall submit it along with the attachments through the NSFC’s Internet-based Science Information System. No hard copies are required by NSFC. After being awarded, the signed and sealed page of the application form should be attached to the Research Plan and submitted to NSFC together. Please ensure that the signed and sealed information should be consistent with the electronic application form.
- (6) Attachments required:
 - a. The Agreement signed by the applicant and the host institution (Please see the appendix for the template). The agreement should be signed by the applicant in person and the legal representative of the host institution in person or with signature stamp, and affixed by the official seal of the host institution. (It should be noted that the seals of the scientific research management department or the second-level colleges are invalid).
 - b. The employment contract signed between the applicant and the host institution. The contract shall include provisions that meet the eligibility requirement, and the applicant shall commit to work for no less than 9 months per year (calendar year) at the host institution during the implementation of the project. If an employment contract has not yet been signed or the signed and submitted employment contract does not meet the above requirements during the application window, the applicant must provide the compliant employment contract when submitting the Research Plan after the proposal is approved by the NSFC for funding; otherwise the NSFC shall withhold allocating the approved funds, or terminate the award.
 - c. If the proposed research involves issues related to scientific research ethics and scientific and technological security (such as biosecurity, information security, etc.), the applicant shall strictly follow relevant national laws, regulations and codes of ethics, and upload corresponding supplementary review and certification documents.

2. Submission by the Host Institution

The authenticity, completeness and legal compliance of the application materials and the objective relevance, policy compliance and reasonability of the proposed budgets should be reviewed by the applicant’s host institution.

The host institution is required to upload the annual *Letter of Commitment for Research Integrity of Host Institution for National Natural Science Fund Projects 2026* via NSFC’s Internet-based Science Information System before submitting all the application materials, and confirm and submit all proposals and necessary attachments via the information system on a case-by-case basis before the specified deadline. Please be sure to submit a list of all the applications via the information system within 24 hours after the specified deadline, and no hard copies are required by NSFC.

Please refer to the *Notice on Application and Conclusion of National Natural Science Fund Projects in 2026* for the above requirements for the host institutions.

3. Deadline

The proposal online submission window opens on March 1, 2026 and closes on March 20, 2026 at 16:00 Beijing time.

Note: Applicants are requested to prepare and submit the application materials in strict accordance with the requirements specified in this call for proposals. Applications failing to meet the above requirements will not be accepted. If you have any questions, please reach us via the following contacts.

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Information System Technical Support (Information Center): +86-10-62317474

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