



NEUTRON STARS AND NEBULAE: HABITATS FOR PHOTONS, COSMIC RAYS AND OTHER ANIMALS

A conference celebrating the lifetime contributions of Alice Harding and Isabelle Grenier

Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger National Park, South Africa

August 9 – 14, 2026

More information is available on the [Conference Website](#)

Second Circular

We are delighted to provide additional information regarding the conference; the first circular is available [here](#).

Rationale

The science of pulsar-like systems is progressing rapidly, driven by major instrumental and computational advances. Hosting a high-energy conference focusing on neutron stars and their environments in the Kruger National Park offers a timely opportunity to bring together international experts, theorists, and observers working across the electromagnetic spectrum and in multi-messenger domains. Recent discoveries with the *Fermi* LAT, H.E.S.S., and LHAASO telescopes have deepened our understanding of pulsar-related systems, revealing extended TeV halos, ultra-high-energy emission from pulsar wind nebulae (PWNe), and pulsed gamma-ray emission in the TeV band. We also look forward to the contributions that will be made by current experiments as well as by the DSA-2000, SKA, *IXPE*, future MeV satellites, SWGO, the CTAO), and HAWC, among others. This meeting will foster engagement between communities studying pulsars, PWNe, and supernova remnants (SNRs), and those investigating their connections to cosmic rays, gravitational waves, and neutrinos.

Conference Series

This will be the third in a series of conferences hosted in the Kruger National Park. The previous editions were:

- **Towards a Major Atmospheric Čerenkov Detector – V**, Berg-en-Dal, 8–11 August 1997.
- **The Cosmic Kaleidoscope – Pulsars and Their Nebulae, Supernova Remnants and More**, Skukuza, 13–17 August 2012 (in memory of Okkie de Jager).
- With this third event, we will celebrate the lifetime professional contribution to gamma-ray astronomy of internationally renowned gamma-ray and pulsar physicists Alice Harding and Isabelle Grenier, on the joyous occasion of the 75th birthday of Alice and the retirement of Isabelle.



SOC

- **Prof. Matthew Baring (co-chair)** – William Marsh Rice University, **USA**
- **Prof. Christo Venter (co-chair)** – North-West University, **South Africa**
- **Dr. Alice Harding** – Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, **USA**
- **Dr. Isabelle Grenier** – AIM, CEA–Saclay / Université Paris–Cité, **France**
- **Dr. Patrizia Caraveo**, INAF – Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Milano, **Italy**
- **Dr. Benoît Cerutti**, Chargé de Recherche CNRS, IPAG, Université Grenoble Alpes, **France**
- **Dr. Marisa Geyer**, University of Cape Town, **South Africa**
- **Dr. Alex Hill**, University of British Columbia, Okanagan, **Canada**
- **Prof. Emma de Oña Wilhelmi**, DESY, **Germany**
- **Prof. Samar Safi–Harb**, University of Manitoba, **Canada**
- **Prof. Diego Torres**, Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats, (ICREA), Barcelona, **Spain**
- **Dr. Zorawar Wadiasingh** – NASA GSFC / University of Maryland College Park, **USA**

Invited Speakers

Please refer to the website regularly for updates. Preliminary talk topics include pulsar theory (pair production, magnetospheres), magnetars, observations (*IXPE*, *NICER*, *Fermi*, H.E.S.S., CTAO), fast radio bursts (FRBs), Pulsar Timing Arrays (PTAs), long-period transients, PWNe, and SNRs.

Venue

Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger National Park in South Africa.

Abstract Submission

Interested researchers are invited to submit an abstract for consideration by the SOC in the period **February 15** to **March 10**, to allow enough time for selection and announcement of talks and posters by **April 15**. There is a dedicated form to capture abstracts on the [website](#).

Registration

The registration fee will be R9 000 per person (around USD560), with late registration being R10 500 after **June 15, 2026**. This covers conference venue and infrastructure hire, conference welcoming packs, daily lunches with beverages, two daily coffees / teas and snacks, poster sessions, the welcoming reception, and the gala dinner. Not included are airfare, accommodation, daily Kruger Park conservation fees / Wild Card costs (payable upon entry of the Park), airport shuttles and game drives. There will be a maximum of 100 participants, with about 20 of them being students / postdocs / junior researchers. Delegates will be able to register on our Registration and Accommodation Portal from **April 15**, with the early registration ending on **May 15** and late registration on **June 15** (or when we've reached capacity).



Funding Support

We are actively pursuing sponsorships in order to make the conference accessible and affordable for early-career scientists. We have secured a sponsorship to waive the registration fee of 12 South African and 6 other students / postdocs. We hope to also subsidise travel and accommodation of some delegates, subject to attracting more sponsorships. Please keep an eye on our website for more information regarding the available level of support and application process. Students / postdocs / early-career scientists should submit both an abstract as well as an application for funding by **March 10, 2026**.

Accommodation Options

The conference website will contain a link to a dedicated registration & accommodation portal that will allow selection of accommodation. We have made a block booking for 65 single and 5 double luxury rooms at the Skukuza Lodge. For a more affordable option, we have also booked 15 bungalows with double occupancy for people who are willing to share.

Accompanying Persons

Accompanying persons are very welcome. The registration & accommodation portal will allow one to add the following expenses for such persons: gala dinner at **R1 800** and welcoming function at **R600**. All other costs, including travel, accommodation, conservation fee, breakfast, lunch, dinner, game drives, and snacks will be for the account of the accompanying person.

Important Dates

Please refer to the [website](#).

Travel Information

Updated information is provided on the [website](#). More details on visas and flights will be available on the portal when registration opens on **April 15, 2026**.

Information about malaria is given on the [website](#) and medical information [here](#). We advise delegates to consult their **doctor or medical practitioner** on this matter.

Delegates should book their own **travel insurance**.

More details on **visas and flights** will be available on the portal.

Contact Information

Please send any queries to info@nsn-knp2026.org.za

