



Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory
Community Science and Data Center
Gemini Observatory
Kitt Peak National Observatory
Vera C. Rubin Observatory

MEMORANDUM

TO: CTIO Observers during semester 2021A

FROM: Steve Heathcote
Associate Director
CTIO Mid-Scale Observatories

DATE: 01/20/2021

SUBJECT: **2021A Target of Opportunity Programs on the Blanco Telescope**

For the 2021A semester the NOIRLab TAC has authorized the following two Target of Opportunity (ToO) programs using DECam on the Víctor M. Blanco 4m Telescope that could impact (take time away from) your program:

2021A-0365, PI M. Brucker, “ToO: Spacewatch Recovery of 2 Hazardous Near-Earth Objects”:
This program has been granted a single interrupt of up to two hours of elapsed (wall clock) time.

2021A-0246, PI K. Bechtol, “Revealing the Sources of High-Energy Astrophysical Neutrinos”:
This program has been granted ToO interrupt time to follow up to 4 alerts from the IceCube neutrino detector. For each alert, data will be obtained at up to 6 epochs, taking 20 minutes of elapsed (wall clock) time per epoch. The first epoch for each alert is the most time critical with data required as soon as possible after the alert. The subsequent epochs will be approximately 2, 5, 9, 14 and 21 days after the event with some flexibility in scheduling so as to minimize the impact on the scheduled observers.

The NOIRLab Mid-Scale Observatories (MSO) Target of Opportunity policy, and its specific implementation at the Blanco telescope are described at

<https://www.noao.edu/noaoprop/help/too.html> and

<http://www.ctio.noao.edu/noao/content/ToO-Policy>

respectively. Under this policy the scheduled observer is expected to help carry out the observations for the ToO program by executing observing scripts that will be prepared in advance by the PI of the ToO program. The CTIO support scientists assigned to the scheduled program and the ToO program will help coordinate these observations as needed.

The PIs of scheduled observing runs that are compromised by a ToO interrupt may appeal to the CTIO director or the MSO Director for discretionary time compensation for the time lost. The award of this compensation will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will not automatically be granted. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about any of the above.