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NewAthena Community e-Newsletter

Issue #18 12 February 2026

NewAthena Coming Webinar



On **24 February 2026 at 15 CET**, Brian McNamara (University of Waterloo) will present "*XRISM's New Perspective on the X-ray Atmospheres of Galaxy Clusters.*"

Further details and connection information are available in the [webinars menu](#).

[Webinar ics](#)

Science Working Group 4: the NewAthena Rising (SWG4) Workshop.

We are pleased to announce that the conference will take place at the Institute of Space Sciences (ICE-CSIC) in Barcelona, Spain, from **2 to 5 June 2026**. Registration and abstract submission are now open and can be accessed via the [conference website](#).

NewAthena Rising: SWG4



TOPICS
 (Extreme) magnetism in compact objects
 Accretion onto stellar-mass compact objects
 Observational constraints on the ultra-dense matter Equation of state
 Discovery of stellar-mass compact objects in our Galaxy and beyond
 Population studies of compact objects

LOC
 Halim Ashkar, Francesco Coti Zelati, Davide De Grandis (chair),
 Matteo Imbrogno, Giulia Illiano, Maria Kopsacheili (co-chair),
 Alessio Marino, Celia Pardo Araujo, Maria E. Ravasio, Martina
 Vozniarska (ED) leads, Yifeng Wang, Yitong Xu (ICE-CSIC,
 IEEC), Barbara De Marco, Federico Ferretti (IUPC, IEEC)

Barcelon, Spain
2-5 June 2026
 Institute of Space Sciences ICE-CSIC

SOC
 Roberto Amato (INAF, Italy), Aru Bar (Indian Research
 Institute, India), Enrico Bozzo (University of Geneva,
 Switzerland), Thomas Dauser (Remeis-Observatory & ECAR,
 FAU, Germany), Davide De Grandis (ICE-CSIC, IEEC, Spain)
 Sébastien Guillot (Université de Toulouse, France), Alessio
 Marino (chair, ICE-CSIC, IEEC, Spain and USACH, Chile),
 Matthew Middleton (University of Southampton, UK),
 Ioanna Psaradaki (ESA/ESTEC, Netherlands), Nanda Rea
 (ICE-CSIC, IEEC, Spain)

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CSIC Institute of Space Sciences

EXCEL·LENCIA
MARIA
DE MAGERIT



The meeting is open to the entire community, while being explicitly conceived as a platform for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) within the **NewAthena Science Working Group 4**. Accordingly, all talks will be delivered by ECRs (defined as researchers within 10 years of their PhD defence), and the keynote talks will be selected from the pool of submitted abstracts.

Please note the following important dates:

- Abstract submission and registration open: 3 February 2026
- Abstract submission deadline: 23 February 2026 at noon CET
- Preliminary programme announcement and selection of keynote talks: mid-March 2026
- Registration deadline: 17 April 2026

Tribute to Professor Mike Cruise



Professor Mike Cruise, Emeritus Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Birmingham, passed away on February 7, 2026.

Professor Cruise leaves behind a remarkable legacy in space science thanks to his pioneering work on gravitational-wave detection, contributing to the development of space-based interferometry and helping to lay the groundwork for missions such as LISA (Laser Interferometer Space Antenna).

Between 2023 and 2024, Prof. Cruise served as co-Chair of the **Science Redefinition Team for NewAthena**. His characteristic clarity, rigour, collaborative spirit, scientific vision and

leadership steered the efforts to reshape the mission's scientific priorities, ensuring the NewAthena retained and strengthened its role as the flagship X-ray observatory in ESA's Science Program. His [2025 Nature Astronomy paper](#) is the most updated synoptic reference for the science case of NewAthena. Thanks to a unique combination of passion for science, sharp judgment, profound wisdom, subtle irony (and self-irony), generosity, humility, and deep understanding of reality and of the opportunities it offers to bring advancement and progress to humankind. Prof. Cruise was a guide and an inspiration during the most difficult phases of the NewAthena Study. **He will be sorely missed.**

Coming conferences - abstract deadline soon -

- [The X-ray Universe 2026](#), Elche (Spain), 8-11 June 2026 (Abstract deadline: 20/02/2026).
- [6th COSPAR Scientific Assembly: E1.18: Revolutionising High-Energy Astrophysics with NewAthena](#), Florence (Italy), 1-8 August 2026 (Abstract deadline: 13/02/2026).

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