

TELUS World of Science – Edmonton proud to announce its inaugural Science Fellow: Dr. Gregory R. Sivakoff

Edmonton, AB – March 9, 2018 – In August 2017 TELUS World of Science – Edmonton launched a search for its very first Science Fellowship program, aimed at recognizing an outstanding young researcher or innovator in Northern Alberta. This month the science centre awarded the honour to Dr. Gregory R. Sivakoff, associate professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Alberta.

“As an organization dedicated to motivating our community to participate and be invested in science and technology, it was important for us to find a way to celebrate individuals who share that commitment,” said Dr. Annie Prud’homme-Généreux, VP of Science at TELUS World of Science – Edmonton. “The Science Fellowship program is an exciting opportunity to celebrate these individuals and to help promote their work to the public and the community.”

As recipient of the science centre’s Science Fellowship, Dr. Sivakoff will receive a monetary award and be provided a professional development scholarship. Throughout the year, Dr. Sivakoff will participate in several outreach activities hosted at the science centre, where the students and the public will have the opportunity to learn more about his research and interact with him.

“There is an amazing amount of quality scientific work led out of Edmonton. With this in mind, I’m absolutely honoured to be chosen as the inaugural TELUS World of Science Fellow,” said Dr. Sivakoff. “I plan to use this opportunity to share the wonders of the Universe my colleagues and I discover with our community and bring advances across scientific field down to earth. Most importantly, I hope to provide insight into how everyday citizens can make important contributions to science. We are all scientists.”

His research explores the remnants of stars, such as black holes, neutron stars, and white dwarves, or as Dr. Sivakoff said, he studies “how these stellar undead come alive again by eating materials from a nearby star.” He attributes his interest in astronomy to his father, who gave him the following advice when he left for university: “Space is big, you ought to be able to find your place in it.”

Dr. Sivakoff’s was a Fullbright Scholar in the UK, and was named an Outstanding Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Virginia. He assists in running the University of Alberta Observatory and helped develop the University’s Science Hardware Makerspace. He is a regular on local news media, making frequent appearances on Edmonton AM, Global TV, and CBC’s *Quirks and Quarks*, and in 2014, he was named one of *Avenue Magazine’s* “Top 40 under 40.”

Additional career achievements include authoring nearly 100 peer-reviewed papers in the field of astronomy, including publications in the journals *Nature* and *Science* and his work has been cited more than 2,500 times.

“We’re excited to have Dr. Sivakoff on board as the newest member of the TELUS World of Science team,” said Prud’homme-Généreux. “We’re looking forward to working closely with him over the course

of the next year, and can't wait to see what new and exciting opportunities are born from the Science Fellowship program."

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About TELUS World of Science Edmonton

TELUS World of Science - Edmonton is a world-class, broad-based science centre that inspires and motivates people to learn about and contribute to science and technology. TELUS World of Science - Edmonton is a leader in providing high quality, interactive programs and exhibits that provide an avenue for both learning and entertainment, and which spark the imagination of people of all ages. The Edmonton Space & Science Foundation is a non-profit organization that operates TELUS World of Science - Edmonton.