

Ivo Saviane



I arrived at ESO in April 2001, from the UCLA. I was previously a postdoc in Padova, where I also received my PhD in 1997. During that time I think I gave, with the Padova and

IAC groups, an important contribution on the question of the relative ages of Galactic globular clusters (GC). Dwarf spheroidal galaxies also attracted my attention, and with another Padova group we helped establishing the idea of extended SF histories (and discovered the old population of Leo I). I was also one of the creators of the *Virtual Planetarium* educational website, at the Padova Observatory.

I am enjoying very much the La Silla environment, which offers the possibility to interact with a multidisciplinary group of people, and to contribute to instrument development (in particular, upgrading FEROS in the near future). Moreover, the ever-increasing number of students and visitors makes ESO/Chile a good and stimulating working place.

Now I am leading a project to test the luminosity-metallicity relation of dwarf

irregular galaxies, I am extending the relative age study to the LMC clusters (where I discovered a young globular), and the dwarf galaxy group in Padova still likes to have me as a collaborator! During my stay in California I discovered that the Antennae are not so far as commonly believed (and now I have to convince the referee), and I contributed to the project "Hubble Deep Field in a GC", led by the Vancouver group. Some people think I am good at free-hand drawing, and a few of my portraits are out there on the Internet. I would be very happy if you gave me Old Blue Eyes' *The complete Reprise years!*

Petri Vaisanen



I am a second-year ESO Fellow in Chile – and I do not regret accepting this job. To support and use top-notch instruments at the VLT, to learn more about a wide range of observational astronomy, to help

visiting astronomers doing exciting science, is all very rewarding. And I still have plenty of time for my own work. In fact, operating the adaptive optics instrument NACO has given new perspectives to my interests. For the third

year of my fellowship I will join the Astronomy Department of Universidad de Chile. I can concentrate on science and develop new collaborations before starting a job-hunt again.

My main scientific focus has been extragalactic infrared work aiming at acquiring an unbiased view of the formation history of galaxies. It has taken the form of several different projects, including optical and near-IR follow-up of ISO-detected mid- and far-IR galaxies using various telescopes. I have concentrated on extremely red galaxies (EROs) and interacting and starburst systems, and recently also on obscured nuclear activity. The plan is to expand this line of research using e.g. the SIRTf. I am also involved in a "more local" project of studying star formation in galactic molecular clouds using VLT/ISAAC data.

A thing I have missed is teaching, which I had done previously in Helsinki (where I finished my PhD in 2001) and Harvard (where I worked as a SAO Pre-doctoral Fellow for 3 years). However, as part of a campaign to see my own country join ESO, I have written, with others, articles about ESO and astronomy to Finnish newspapers and magazines, given interviews, and hosted journalists visiting Paranal. Exploring the universe can be great fun – that is something I have thought since a little kid, and it is the idea I hope to get across whether talking to students or the general public.

URANUS, Rings and Moons

A near-infrared view of the giant planet Uranus with its rings and some of its moons, obtained at a wavelength of 2.2 μm on November 19, 2002, with the ISAAC multi-mode instrument on the 8.2-m VLT ANTU telescope. The observing conditions were excellent, with seeing of 0.5 arcsec.

The rings of Uranus are almost undetectable from the Earth in visible light, but on this VLT near-infrared picture the contrast between the rings and the planet is strongly enhanced. At the near infrared wavelength at which this observation was made, the in-falling sunlight is almost completely absorbed by gaseous methane present in the planetary atmosphere and the disk of Uranus therefore appears unusually dark. At the same time, the icy material in the rings reflects the sunlight and appears comparatively bright.

The observers at ISAAC were Emmanuel Lellouch and Thérèse Encrenaz of the Observatoire de Paris (France) and Jean-Gabriel Cuby and Andreas Jaunsen (both ESO-Chile).

More details can be found in ESO press release PR 31/02.

