

Feedback for EPSRC Funding

Claire Foullon - Participating in a workshop on 'Structures in the Solar-Wind Plasma'

17 – 20th October 2011, Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences, University of Michigan, USA

I enjoyed this well-focused workshop. The number of participants was about 20, which allowed time for interactions and discussions. The participants were from different seniority levels, which allowed for the transmission of well accepted versus new ideas. The room was well equipped and very comfortable. All conveniences were provided (e.g. refreshments, snacks) without registration fee. My taxi transport to the airport was also arranged and paid by the University of Michigan. I was the only research staff from Warwick involved, presenting at the event itself.

First, I was glad to receive feedback and questions while delivering my invited oral contribution. The work I presented is related to "Plasmoid Releases in the Heliospheric Current Sheet and Associated Coronal Hole Boundary Layer Evolution" (Foullon et al., 2011, Astrophysical Journal). This work is currently very popular as it is among the 10% most accessed articles across all IOP journals. Nevertheless, where the questions are asked highlight where the research can continue. In addition, I have been exposed to current thoughts and ideas in the area I am researching. The workshop is also likely to provide a source of collaborative studies that can enhance my research outputs.

The talks in the workshop covered a wide range of topics, for which I had no previous deep knowledge. I took particular notes on some techniques developed, some agreements or not found between data analysed and models to be tested, recent findings on plasma instabilities in the solar wind, etc. At the end of the workshop, I gained a better view of where studies are needed in the future and where collaborations can be formed.

I have met new and well-recognised people and tied new links. In addition, I believe this activity is very important for consolidating my research reputation, building my external esteem and enhancing collaborations in the longer term.

I certainly benefited from sharing and being exposed to different areas of knowledge. The long-term result will be to contribute and deliver high-quality science in my research. All this impacts on how I continue to develop and build a solid international reputation.