

# FSSC & Fermi GI Program

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- No center access since late March, all activities conducted remotely w/o significant problems
- Regular discussions w/LAT and GBM teams and FOT continue
- Data operations: ingest/archiving has continued essentially uninterrupted.
- Helpdesk, dropped ~50% in March, April. Now back to normal.
- Archive activity remained at normal level suggesting community remains engaged despite cv-19.

- Major science tools update undergoing final testing; release imminent
  - Python3 support, new IRFs, bug fixes.
- New GBM tools (provided by MSFC) posted.
- New spacecraft (FT2) files release also imminent.
  - SC\_VELOCITY columns and improved geodetic latitude/altitude calculation.
- New LAT data server hardware installed
  - Noticeable performance enhancement.
  - Currently installing and testing SW

- Cycle-13 proposal submitted February 19, 2020
  - No Cov-19 pandemic yet
- F2F review planned for May 4-6
  - Recruit panelists while Cov-19 situation evolved, complicating that process
  - By mid-March 2020 NASA HQ declares all forthcoming reviews will be virtual
- Virtual review planned & completed on schedule
  - Fermi benefited from TESS, NuStar lessons learned
- Stage-II process completed by end of July
- Grant administration ongoing
  - Cycle 13 began 8/13/20

- 109 proposals received, 41 selected (40 grants)
- Response to proposal call increased by 10% wrt Cycle-12
- 38% approval rate, similar to Cycle-12 and an improvement *wrt* past cycles
  - Cycles 5-10 average was 22%
- This selection rate is ~consistent with the average for NASA GO programs

## Requests

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109 proposals received, involving 344 individual investigators from 175 institutions and 25 countries includes: 1 Large project request

41 selections, 40 grants awarded  
\$8.0M requested, \$3.0M awarded,  
\$75k/yr average grant request  
Note: \$3.0M also covers \$0.15M Cy-12 obligation

oversubscription is ~2.7X (or ~37% selection rate)

### Joint programs

Requested (Prop/Hrs) Total Allocation

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NRAO: (11/300) / (450-600 hrs on GBT, VLA & VLBA)

NOAO: (6/380) / (3-5% for various telescopes)

VERITAS: (0/0) / (120 hrs)

INTEGRAL:(0/0) / (250 ksec)

## Awarded:

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41 Programs (40 grants)  
1 Large Project (VLBA Blazar monitoring)

\$2.85M (+ \$0.15M obligations)  
Average grant: \$74k

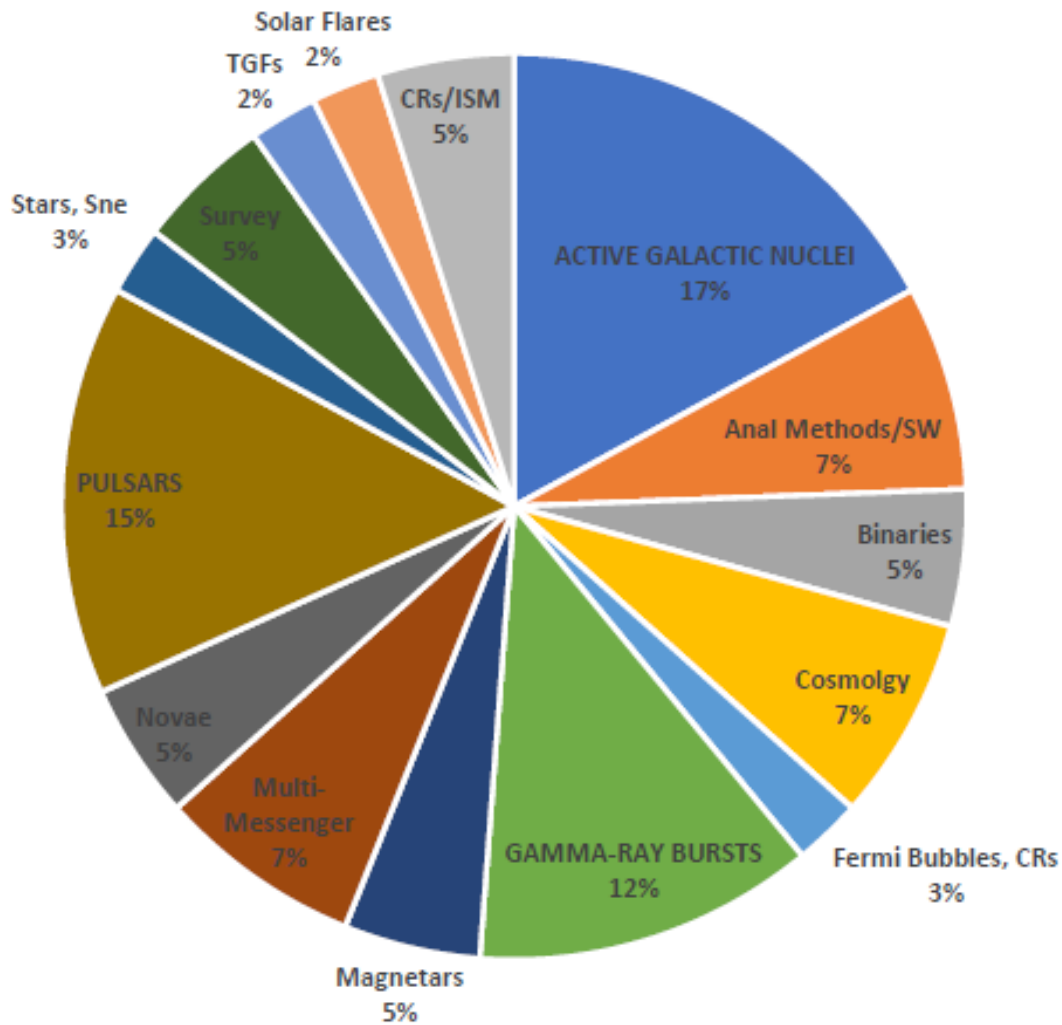
NOAO: 3 / 250 hrs

NRAO: 5 / 160 (4 VLA/VLBA, 1 GBT)

INTEGRAL: 0/0

VERITAS: 0/0

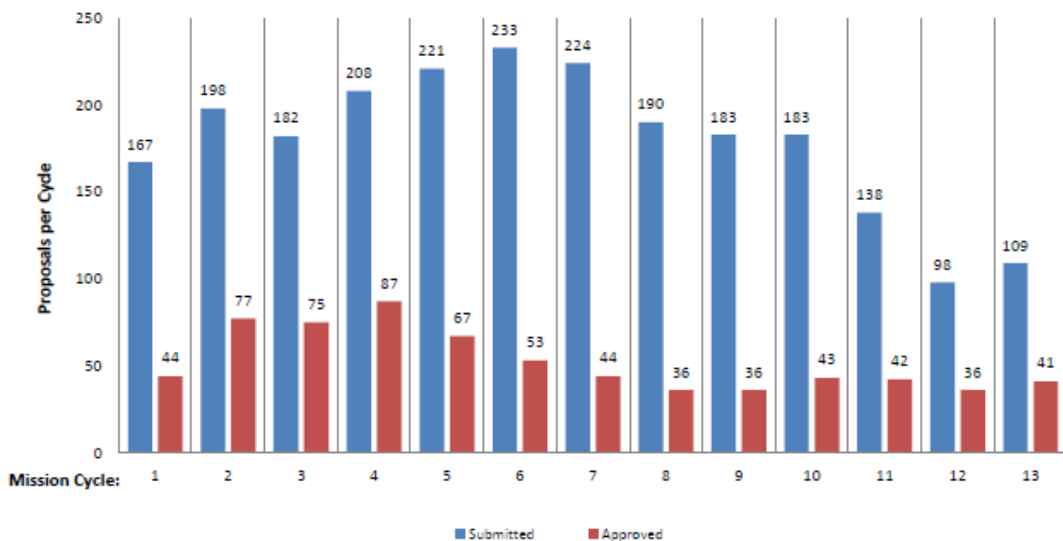
# Topical Distribution



- ACTIVE GALACTIC NUCLEI
- GAMMA-RAY BURSTS
- Stars, Sne
- Anal Methods/SW
- Magnetars
- Survey
- Binaries
- Multi-Messenger
- TGFs
- Cosmolgy
- Novae
- Solar Flares
- Fermi Bubbles, CRs
- PULSARS
- CRs/ISM

# GI Program History

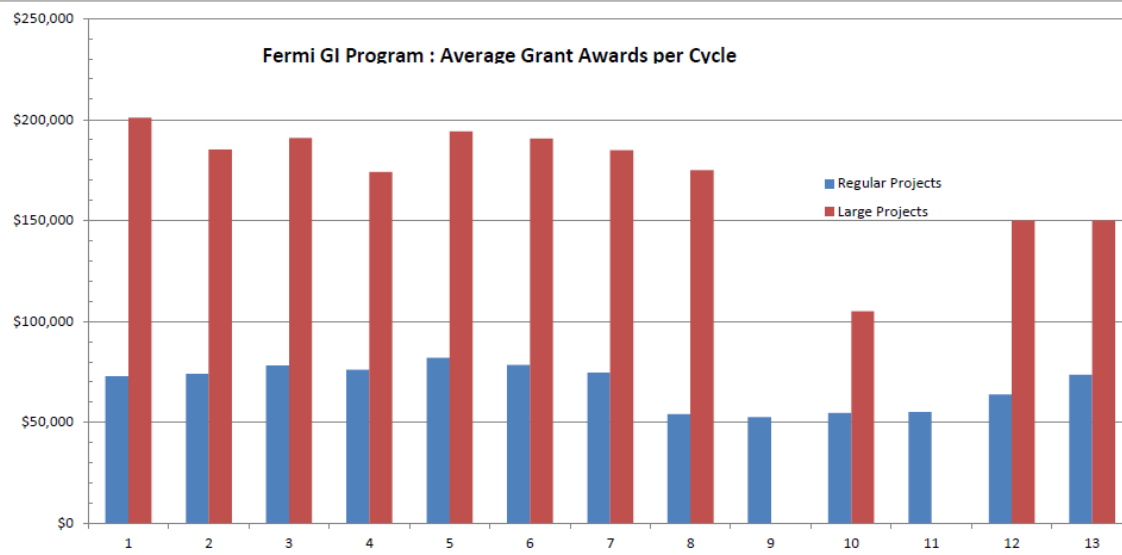
Fermi GI Proposal History



Selection rate  
~37%, comparable  
to that of overall  
NASA GO  
programs.

15% increase in grant  
level as result of last  
years increase caps (as  
per FUG  
recommendation).

Fermi GI Program : Average Grant Awards per Cycle





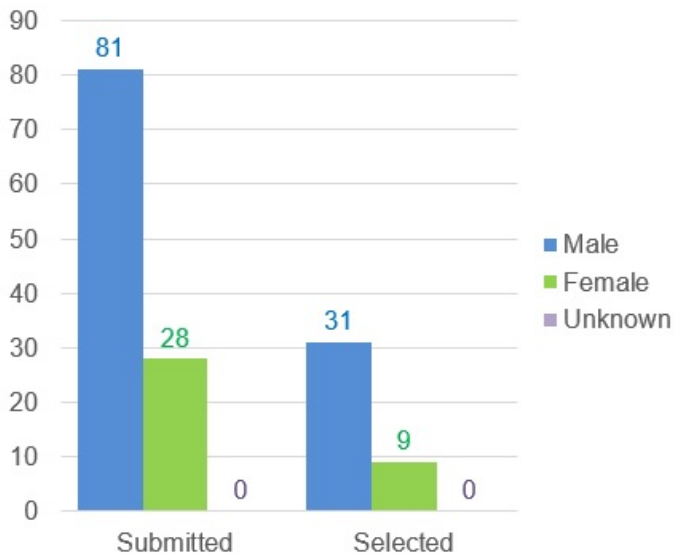
- Schedule: Feb. 19, 2021 proposal due date
  - ~early May review, virtual? (tbd)
  - July/August stage-II awards
- Budgeting tbd, hopefully program can continue to select 30-40 programs
- No significant policy changes anticipated other than dual-anonymous review process

- Stage-I proposal submission done as before via ARK/RPS
  - Include PI and all co-I info as in the past
  - Names are known to us but hidden from reviewers
  - Numerical references, no “first person” attributions
  - Panelists may not speculate PI, co-I identities (enforcer present)
  - Include “team expertise” page
- Relaxes certain types of panelists conflicts of interest
- **After** deliberation and grading names will be revealed
  - A proposal can then be disqualified, but no re-scoring
- Precedent w/NuStar (GSFC managed reviews)
- Some aspects unique to Fermi possibly problematic?
  - 1-yr data analysis projects often incremental, year-to-year follow-up natural
  - Multi-  $\lambda$  monitoring programs common, often sold in part on legacy

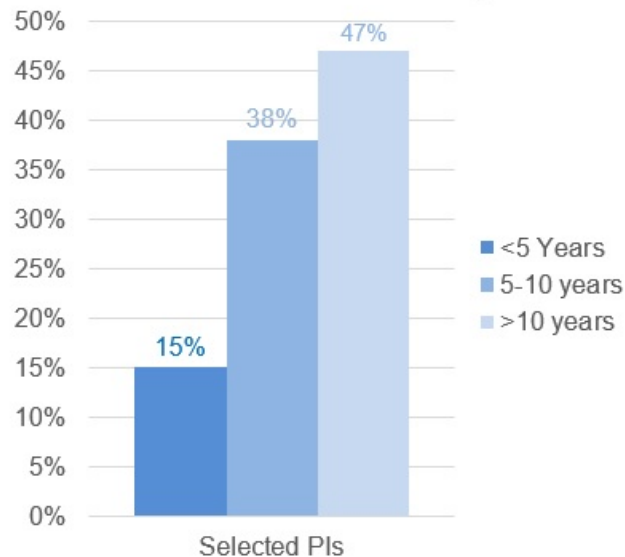
- Use SR-19 augmentation to increase in proposal budget cap to \$80k → implemented
- Motivate community to submit more proposals
  - 10% increase, but not clear why (no government shutdown helped, plus pre-pandemic deadline)
- Improve panel diversity, expertise
  - Not clear how to do this, but we're arguably at acceptable levels

# Diversity, Seniority Balance

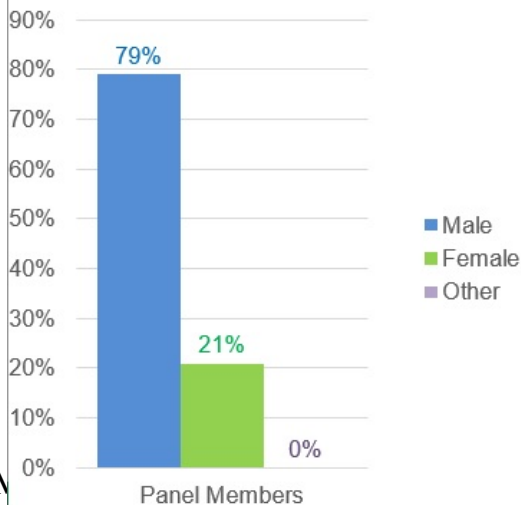
PI Inferred Genders



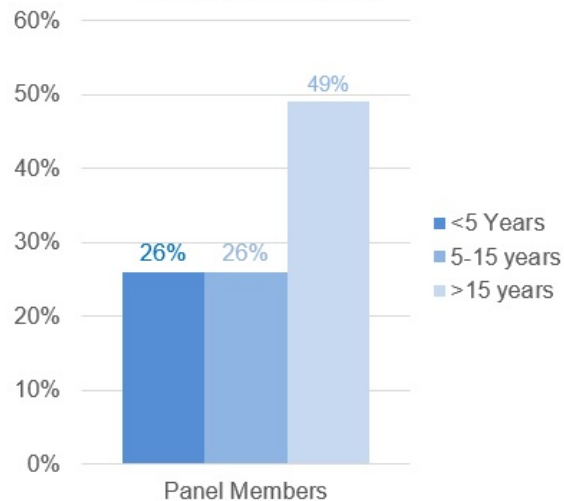
Selected PIs Career Stages



Panel Gender Diversity



Panel Career Stages



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# Thanks for your attention! Questions, Comments?