

Itumeleng Monageng (itu@sao.ac.za)

Researcher and UCT Lecturer

Research interests: Multiwavelength studies of X-ray binaries, accretion physics, massive binary stellar evolution, astrophysical transients and time-domain astronomy.

Lee Townsend (lee@sao.ac.za)

SALT astronomer and instrument scientist for RSS, SALT's prime focus spectrograph.

Research interests: X-ray binaries, accretion, highly magnetised neutron stars, massive stellar evolution, the Magellanic Clouds and, more broadly, astrophysical transients and their multi-wavelength follow-up.

Retha Pretorius (retha@sao.ac.za)

Instrumentation Scientist

Research Interests: Interacting binaries, astrophysical transients, accretion and jet physics, as well as binary star evolution and populations.

Paul Groot (p.groot@astro.ru.nl)

Researcher and Instrumentation Scientist

Research Interests: Fast transients, gravitational wave sources and ultracompact binaries using wide-field surveys, among others with the MeerLICHT, BlackGEM, Lesedi and SALT telescopes; and astronomical instrumentation.

Steve Potter (sbp@sao.ac.za)

Researcher and Principal Investigator of Intelligent Observatory

Research Interests: Transients and time domain optical astronomy with particular expertise in polarimetry

Zwidofhelangani Khangale (khangalezn@sao.ac.za)

SALT Astronomer

Research Interests: Stellar binaries, Polarimetry

David Buckley (dibnob@sao.ac.za)

Researcher

Research Interests: Multi-wavelength (optical - SALT in particular, gamma ray, X-ray and radio) studies of accreting compact binaries (involving white dwarfs, neutron stars or black holes). Principal Investigator for the SALT followup programme on transients and am also one of the South African PI Affiliates for the Rubin Observatory Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST), focusing on transient detection and followup.

Charles Mpho Takalana (charlest@sao.ac.za)

Researcher, Lecturer, Deputy Director of International Astronomical Union – Office of Astronomy for Development (IAU-OAD), we work to advance the use of astronomy, including its practitioners, skills, and infrastructures, as a tool for sustainable development.

Research Interests: 21cm and SZ Observational Cosmology with SKA and its precursors, Astronomy for development, Impact of astronomy for development, Application of astronomy and STEM skills to address societal challenges.

Rudi Kuhn (rudi@sao.ac.za)

SALT Astronomer, Lecturer

Research Interests: Exoplanets, stellar binaries, telescope environment and data quality monitoring and SALT instrumentation

Lisa Crause (lisa@sao.ac.za)

SALT Observatory Scientist

Research Interests: Exoplanets, SALT instrumentation - in particular the HRS Laser Frequency Comb.

Nicolas Erasmus (nerasmus@sao.ac.za)

Instrumentation Scientist. Involved in various SAAO run telescopes.

Research Interests: Solar System Science, specifically main-belt and near-Earth asteroids (NEAs), automated rapid-follow-up and characterisation of newly discovered and potentially hazardous NEAs, astronomical instrumentation, development of various SAAO telescopes.

Ros Skelton (ros@sao.ac.za)

SAAO Managing director, Head of Research

Research Interests: Galaxy evolution, particularly the effects of environment on the gas content and mass growth of galaxies, which our group explores with multi wavelength data from SALT, MeerKAT and other telescopes. Member of 4MOST Hemisphere Survey (4HS).

Zara Randriamanakoto (zara@sao.ac.za)

Researcher

Research interests: Multi-wavelength observations of strongly star-forming regions and massive star clusters in interacting and collisional ring galaxies; and studies of AGN duty cycles and bent structure of radio AGN using wide-field radio continuum surveys.

Antoine Mahoro (antoine@sao.ac.za)

SALT Astronomer

Research Interests: Galaxy evolution studies in the optical, AGN, IFU instrumentation. Member of the Pan-African AGN survey.

Moses Mogotsi (moses@sao.ac.za)

SALT astronomer and UCT adjunct lecturer

Research interests: Multi-wavelength (optical, radio, near-infrared and UV) resolved studies of nearby star forming galaxies to study the baryon cycle, star formation and the evolution of galaxies in different environments; SALT instrumentation. Member of 4MOST 4HS, SUNBIRD, LLUS, MHONGOOSE and SUNBIRD multi-wavelength Nearby Galaxy Surveys.

Encarni Romero Colmenero (erc@salt.ac.za)

Head of SALT Astronomy Operations

Research Interests: Reverberation mapping of AGN. Member of the LCO IDRMP Key Project and KAMP, and Pan-African AGN survey.

Nikki Zabel (nikkiz@sao.ac.za)

SALT Astronomer

Research Interests: Multiwavelength (optical, radio) studies of nearby galaxies and star formation. A member of the MHONGOOSE survey.