



San Mateo County Astronomical Society



[Home](#) [Announcements](#) [Meetings](#) [Star Parties](#) [Calendar](#) [Newsletter](#) [Membership](#) [Contact](#) [About](#)

SMCAS General Meeting and Presentation on Friday October 5, 2018

Dr Mandeep Gill

Observational Cosmologist, KIPAC, SLAC, Stanford

The Thrill of Discovery! Seeing Gravitational Waves AND Light from a Neutron Star Collision

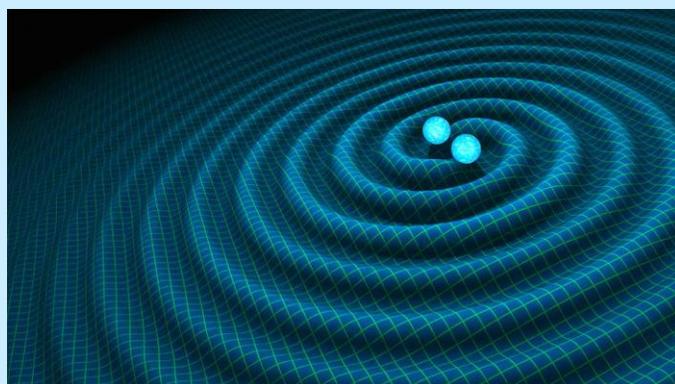
Friday, October 5, 2018 , [College of San Mateo, Building 36](#)

SMCAS General meeting at 7:00 p.m. ISC Room, room 110

Presentation at 8:00 p.m. [Planetarium](#)

Free and open to the public, free parking (lots 5 or 6).

"Holy Smokes -- Seeing Gravitational Waves AND light from a Neutron Star Smashup? Now we're big time!". On Aug 17, 2017, astronomers around the world saw an event they had waited a long, long time for -- observing Gravitational Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation from a Binary Neutron Star merger. In this talk, Dr Gill will discuss what it was like to be in the center of that discovery maelstrom, and what we have learned from it so far, along with what we hope to learn from seeing future events of this form.



Conception of gravitational waves produced by neutron stars
Credits: R. Hurt/Caltech-JPL



Dr. Gill teaches and conducts research in particle physics and cosmology -- both in the past, and future. He is an observational cosmologist specializing in gravitational lensing and gravitational wave optical counterpart detection and also Outreach Coordinator at the Kalvi Institute of Particle Physics and Cosmology at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. He is also an Astronomy Instructor at Stanford University. He earned his doctorate at UC Berkeley in 2004 in Experimental High Energy Particle Physics. In the summer of 2005 he visited the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, and

observed, and was awed, the construction of the CMS and Atlas experiments! In a visiting position at Cal Tech in 2006 he was involved in a cosmology project involving second order weak lensing of distant galaxy clusters. (and ultimately better dark matter distribution determination). From 2006 to 2009 he was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics at the Ohio State University. There he concentrated on gravitational weak lensing and the determination of cosmological parameters using this technique.