

SOFIA Science Metrics Summary – K Ennico Smith

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We presented a series of internal metrics the program keeps to address observatory efficient and tracking the science productivity (oversubscription, publications, citations, etc.). Here are some of the SNOPAC finding comments:

1. There are some metrics particularly important for the Senior Review, such as: papers/flight (or papers/hours observation times), how many new persons are getting to use SOFIA, citations, how many times publications in high impact journals.
2. Many of the other metrics like Research Hours, the tracking of the steps of the Guest Investigator publication plans, fraction of projects being complete vs. time, etc. are good for the program to track internally to continue to assess the Observatory's science value and productivity.
3. Typically it takes about 2 years after an observation for publications to start coming out. SOFIA is expecting to reach that milestone this year for its first year of significant flying hours.
4. Assess if you got data how was it being used.
5. Archival data that has enhanced products are more useful than basic products. Challenge to the program to look what enhanced products we can deliver.
6. For the tracking of data delivery to users, separate the Facility Class vs. PI Class instruments, as there are different timescales appropriate to the process due to staffing and MOUs.
7. Continue to collect lessons learned from Instrument PIs and Guest Investigators.
8. SOFIA does not create a large amount of data to be an "archive machine" and therefore we should not set unrealistic expectations. Equivalently, SOFIA's key strength is doing new things due to the ability to upgrade the platform and capabilities.