

Celebrating 20 years of Swift Discoveries



Contribution ID: 107

Type: **Contributed talk**

Holding Out for a Hero: X-ray, UV, and optical characterization of the nuclear transient AT2020afhd

Thursday 27 March 2025 18:05 (15 minutes)

AT2020afhd was first discovered in the optical by the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) and reported as an X-ray-detected tidal disruption event (TDE) candidate with broad Balmer and He II emission in February 2024. Subsequent observations with Swift/UVOT and XRT revealed striking behavior, with UV characteristics comparable to optically-selected TDEs but with prominent X-ray variability. In this talk, I present the long-term optical, UV, and X-ray light curve of AT2020afhd in addition to follow-up optical spectroscopy. Using this rich suite of follow-up observations, I discuss the nature and classification of this transient and how it may help further our understanding of SMBH disk formation and accretion.

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Session Classification: TDEs and Nuclear Transients