

■ Rationale for DD-ERS Program

We propose the perfect Director’s Discretionary Early Release Science (DD ERS) program. We have identified a population of mid-infrared bright quasars at the peak of cosmological quasar activity. Their global star-formation properties are currently unknown, but observations with JWST MIRI, and in particular MRS spectroscopy, will quantify the level of star-formation in these objects. Moreover, we have already begun to design and create science-enabling products (SEPs) to help the community understand JWST’s capabilities. Our MIRI MRS Code Repo is already active and completely accessible to anyone in the broader community. We will deliver the MIRI MRS SEPs first with mock data before the launch of JWST, and then in rapid fashion once the start of science operations commences in April 2019.

Our teams commitment to an open access ideology, not only for data, but for analysis codes, documentation, and scientific manuscripts is already evident and in place (see also the P.I.’s GitHub). We aim to engage a broad cross-section of the astronomical community, in particular the extra-galactic community, in familiarizing themselves with JWST data and scientific capabilities.

We outline the Scientific and Community Access rationale here and give details of the scientific motivation in the Scientific Justification and why our quasars are the ideal ERS targets. Details of our observations are given in the Technical Description; in brief, we will observe four quasars with MIRI MRS across the full wavelength range. The exposure time for each object is 4,700 seconds, and our entire program (with APT Smart Accounting invoked) is 25.00 hours. We do not have any special observational requirements, nor any Coordinated Parallel Observations. We give more detail of our plan to deliver the SEPs in the Data Processing & Analysis Plan section. This includes a list of analysis code modules we will develop, how the community can rapidly access our findings and technical notes, and the breakdown of who in the Core Analysis Team is going to do what.

Science Rationale

Over 50 years after their formal identification, and over two decades since the calculation of their space density evolution, several fundamental facts remain unknown for high-luminosity AGN, i.e. quasars: What is the main AGN triggering mechanism at the height of quasar activity at redshifts $z = 2-3$? What direct, observational evidence in individual objects links AGN activity to star formation? Can we observe “AGN feedback” in action, in situ, for the most luminous sources at their peak activity? These remain the outstanding observational extragalactic questions of our time. And they will be answered with the launch of the *James Webb Space Telescope*.

The recently identified Extremely Red Quasar (ERQ) objects are a unique obscured quasar population with extreme physical conditions related to powerful outflows across the line-forming regions. These objects are found at the same cosmological epoch as the peak of quasar activity, $z \approx 2.5$, and are the best candidates to date to show outflows on galactic



scales in high-luminosity objects at these epochs; we are seeing quasar-level AGN feedback in action, in situ.

With our ERS MIRI observations of these ERQ, so called since they are bright in the WISE W4 $23\mu\text{m}$ band, we will deliver all the tools necessary to the community in order to optimize Cycle 2 proposals of $5\text{--}30\mu\text{m}$ milliJansky bright sources. This is *a fundamental tool* for the exploitation of a key MIRI instrument mode.

The Medium-Resolution Spectrometer: The JWST MIRI medium-resolution spectrometer (MRS; Wells et al. 2015) will observe simultaneous spatial and spectral information between 4.9 and $28.8\mu\text{m}$ over a contiguous field of view up to $7.2'' \times 7.9''$ in size. This is the only JWST configuration offering **medium-resolution spectroscopy** (with $R \approx 1500\text{--}3500$) longward of $5.2\mu\text{m}$.

MRS observations are carried out using a set of 4 integral field units (IFUs), each of which covers a different portion of the MIRI wavelength range. MRS IFUs split the field of view into spatial slices, each of which produces a separate dispersed “long-slit” spectrum. Post-processing produces a composite 3-dimensional (2 spatial and one spectral dimension) data cube combining the information from each of these spatial slices. *This IFU aspect of the Medium Resolution Spectrometer will allow, for the first time, **detailed investigations** of the both the central AGN IR emission and potentially extended emission.*



Community Access Rationale

We will satisfy the Goals and Principles of the DD ERS program by: ensuring open access to our datasets in support of the preparation of Cycle 2 proposals, and, engaging a broad cross-section of the astronomical community, in particular the extragalactic community, in familiarizing themselves with JWST data and scientific capabilities.

In particular, we aim to produce several key science products:

- **mrs_analyzer** A Python module for analyzing MRS data;
- **mrsfringe** A Python module for mitigating MRS fringing issues;
- a suite of science results on quasar feedback and evolution.

Critically, we have already begun working closely with the MIRI team (due to the P.I.’s location at Edinburgh) and will continue to develop tools here for the MIRI Imager and MRS. We will produce of SEP analysis code and documentation. However, the 7 month period between the end of commissioning and Cycle 2 proposal deadlines will be too short for dissemination of our findings, novel techniques and potentially even science results in the traditional manner (via journals). Moreover, ongoing updated versions of our analyses are envisaged to happen until right up to the Cycle 2 deadline. To solve these issues, we will fully employ the power of a code version repository system, in our case GitHub, to keep the community informed and updated with or SEPs. GitHub has code versioning automatically built-in so proper referencing of e.g. technical notes is straight-forward.

■ Scientific Justification

One lasting scientific legacy of the *Hubble Space Telescope (HST)* will be the discovery of giant black holes at the centers of galaxies, confirming the longstanding theory of the “central engines” of quasars. One of the major surprises from the *Hubble* was the discovery of a correlation between black hole mass and host galaxy properties.¹ This connection, causal or otherwise, may provide crucial clues to how and why these black holes formed and how their host galaxies evolved. *As of the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the question of how black holes affect their host galaxies is one of the outstanding questions in astrophysics.*

Observational and theoretical work now suggests that active galaxies and black holes are potentially linked to both the triggering, and “quenching”, of massive star formation. The link between massive galaxies and the central super-massive black holes (SMBHs) that seem ubiquitous in them is now thought to be vital to the understanding of galaxy formation and evolution ([1], [2]), and huge observational and theoretical effort has been invested in trying to measure and understand the physics involved in these enigmatic systems. The two main energy sources available to a galaxy are nuclear fusion in stars and gravitational accretion onto compact objects, and we still do not fully understand the interaction of an active galactic nuclei and the star formation properties of their host galaxies, *especially at the epoch of maximal cosmic SFR and quasar activity, redshifts $z \sim 1 - 3$.*

The “quenching” of galaxy-wide star formation, is supposedly driven by “AGN feedback”, where the AGN helps to heat the surrounding gas corona, offsetting cooling losses and disrupting the gas inflow. This feedback manifests itself as high-velocity outflows from the AGN/quasar. However, *direct observational evidence for AGN feedback* is conspicuous by its absence. This is especially true at high- z , e.g. $z = 2 - 3$, at the height of the Quasar Epoch. We have identified the best candidates that suggest we are *seeing quasar feedback* in action, in situ at high-redshift. These are the “Extremely Red Quasars” identified via their WISE W3/4 colors. As such, these mJy luminous AGN *are ideal targets for JWST MIRI.*

The Extremely Red Quasar Population: By matching the quasar catalogues of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS), the Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS) to the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE), Ross et al. (2015) discovered quasars with extremely red infrared-to-optical colors: $r_{AB} - W4_{\text{Vega}} > 14$ mag, i.e., $F_{\nu}(22\mu\text{m})/F_{\nu}(r) \gtrsim 1000$. These objects have infrared luminosities $\sim 10^{47}$ erg s⁻¹. The original motivation here was to look for PAHs that had redshifted in the WISE W4 band for $z \approx 2.5$ quasars in order to study and link luminous AGN activity and star formation at the “height of the quasar epoch”.

Hamann et al. (2017) then fully and properly refined the selection of the ERQs, changed the definition based on other data and common properties, and indeed found many more objects

¹Assessment of Options for Extending the Life of the Hubble Space Telescope: Final Report (2005); <https://www.nap.edu/read/11169/chapter/5>).

in this new scheme. The ERQs have a suite of peculiar emission-line properties including large rest equivalent widths (REWs), unusual “wingless” line profiles, large $N\text{V}/\text{Ly}\alpha$, $N\text{V}/\text{CIV}$, SiIV/CIV and other flux ratios, and very broad and blueshifted $[\text{OIII}]\lambda 5007$.

Our team identified a “core” sample of 97 ERQs with nearly uniform peculiar properties selected via $i\text{--}W3 \geq 4.6$ (AB) and $\text{REW}(\text{CIV}) \geq 100 \text{ \AA}$ at redshifts 2.0–3.4. The core ERQs have median luminosity $\langle \log L(\text{ergs/s}) \rangle \sim 47.1$, sky density 0.010 deg^{-2} , surprisingly flat/blue UV spectra given their red UV-to-mid-IR colors, and common outflow signatures including BALs or BAL-like features and large CIV emission-line blueshifts. Their SEDs and line properties are inconsistent with normal quasars behind a dust reddening screen. Patchy obscuration by small dusty clouds could produce the observed UV extinctions without substantial UV reddening.

Further observations by our team with VLT-XShooter measured rest-frame optical spectra of four $z \sim 2.5$ extremely red quasars (Zakamska et al. 2016). We discovered very broad (full width at half max = $2600 - 5000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$), strongly blue-shifted (by up to 1500 km s^{-1}) $\text{OIII}\lambda 5007\text{\AA}$ emission lines in these objects. In a large sample of type 2 and red quasars, OIII kinematics are positively correlated with infrared luminosity, and the four objects in our sample are on the extreme end both in OIII kinematics and infrared luminosity. As such, we estimate that at least 3% of the bolometric luminosity in these objects is being converted into the kinetic power of the observed wind. Photo-ionization estimates suggest that the OIII emission might be extended on a few kpc scales, which would suggest that the extreme outflow is affecting the entire host galaxy of the quasar.



~~We now believe that~~ the “Core ERQs” are a unique obscured quasar population with extreme physical conditions related to powerful outflows across the line-forming regions. These sources are the signposts of the most extreme form of quasar feedback at the peak epoch of galaxy formation, and may represent an active “blow-out” phase of quasar evolution.

MIR spectroscopy: ~~How do galaxies form?~~ ~~How do they evolve?~~ How do supermassive black holes fit in this picture of galaxy formation? Which objects are the main contributors to the overall energy budget of the universe? To properly answer these questions, one needs to differentiate objects powered by nuclear fusion in stars (i.e. normal and starburst galaxies) from objects powered by mass accretion onto supermassive black holes (quasars and AGNs). A wide variety of diagnostic tools have been used in the past for this purpose with different degree of success.

IR spectroscopy, previously with the InfraRed Spectrograph (IRS; Houck et al. 2004) on board the Spitzer Space Telescope, provided new insights into the physics and classification of AGN. The unambiguous observations of the silicate feature at $9.7 \mu\text{m}$ in emission in many known AGN (Hao et al., 2005; Siebenmorgen et al., 2005; Sturm et al., 2005; Buchanan et al., 2006; Shi et al., 2006) came as **the long sought confirmation of the unified scheme**. At the same time, however, IRS observations indicated that in some cases the source of obscuration resides in the host rather than the torus (e.g. Goulding et al., 2012; Hatziminaoglou et al., 2015). Identification through MIR spectroscopy is very powerful, allowing to detect obscured

AGN components even when the MIR is dominated by the host galaxy. Several classification diagrams have been developed to determine the AGN contribution to an observed spectrum based on certain spectral features, such as high ionisation emission lines like Ne V, [Ne II] and O IV, the EW of PAH features and the strength of the silicate feature at $9.7\ \mu\text{m}$ (see, e.g. Spoon et al., 2007; Armus et al., 2007; Veilleux et al., 2009; Hernan-Caballero & Hatziminaoglou, 2011). A number of techniques have also been developed to model the observed MIR spectra and constrain the AGN and starburst contributions (see e.g. Schweitzer et al., 2008; Nardini et al., 2008; Deo et al., 2009; Feltre et al., 2013).

Although MIR spectroscopy has had a great impact on our understanding of AGN, the number of objects studied through these techniques is limited when compared to photometric studies, as spectroscopic observations require significantly longer integration times. Ground-based observations are generally limited to the brightest targets due to the effects of the Earth's atmosphere (e.g. Alonso-Herrero et al., 2016), while medium deep observations were only possible with the IRS during its cryogen-cooled phase. For the most part, such observations were limited to $z \sim 1$ luminous IR galaxies (LIRGs), ultraluminous IR galaxies (ULIRGs), and a hand of Type 1 quasars (Hernan-Caballero & Hatziminaoglou, 2011, and references therein) although a number of higher redshift ULIRGs were also studied by IRS (see e.g. Kirkpatrick et al., 2012).

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons: Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are abundant, ubiquitous, and a dominant force in the interstellar medium of galaxies (see e.g., Tielens, 2008, ARAA, 46, 289 for a review). Aromatic features are already a significant component of dusty galaxy spectra as early as $z \approx 2$ (Yan et al., 2005, ApJ, 628, 604). and the infrared (IR) emission features at 3.3, 6.2, 7.7, 8.6, and $11.3\ \mu\text{m}$ are generally attributed to IR fluorescence from (mainly) far-ultraviolet (FUV) pumped large polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) molecules. As such, these features trace the FUV stellar flux and are thus a measure of star formation (Peeters et al, 2004, ApJ, 613, 986). Given the redshift of our ERQs and the MIRI wavelength coverage we will coverage $1.36 \leq \lambda_{\text{emitted}} \leq 8.6\ \mu\text{m}$.

1 Bibliography

Fabian, 2012, ARAA 50, 455 • Kormendy & Ho, 2013, ARAA, 51, 511 • Yuan & Narayan, 2014, ARAA, 52, 529 • Heckman & Best, 2014, ARAA, 52, 589 •

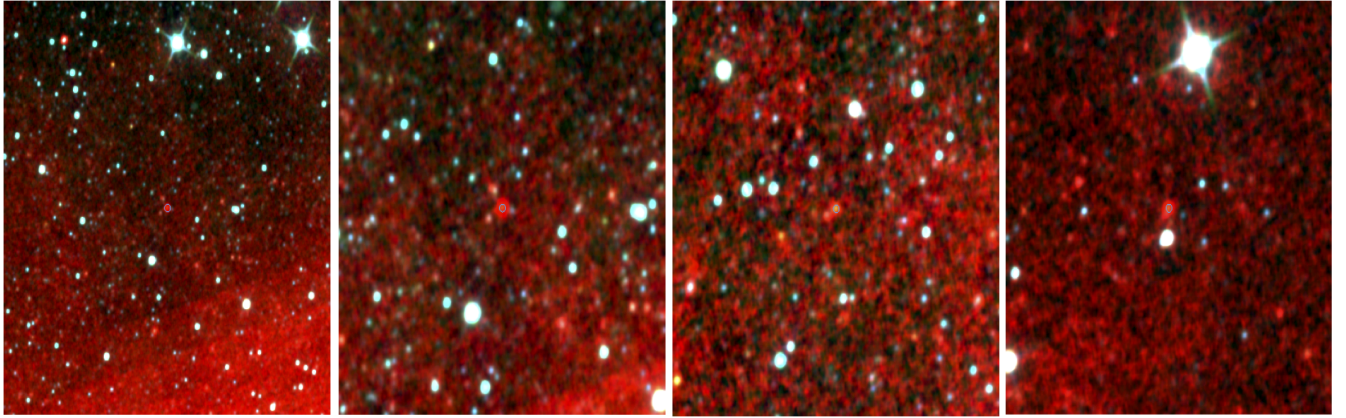


Figure 1: WISE 3.4, 4.6 and $12\mu\text{m}$ image of a $z = 2.5$ extremely red quasars, selected on their $r - [22]$ colour. This object has a $22\mu\text{m}$ flux indicative of $L_{IR} \gtrsim 10^{13.5} L_{\odot}$, and one interpretation could be we are witnessing the “birth” of an unobscured QSO. **Why can I only get one figure on this page????!!!**

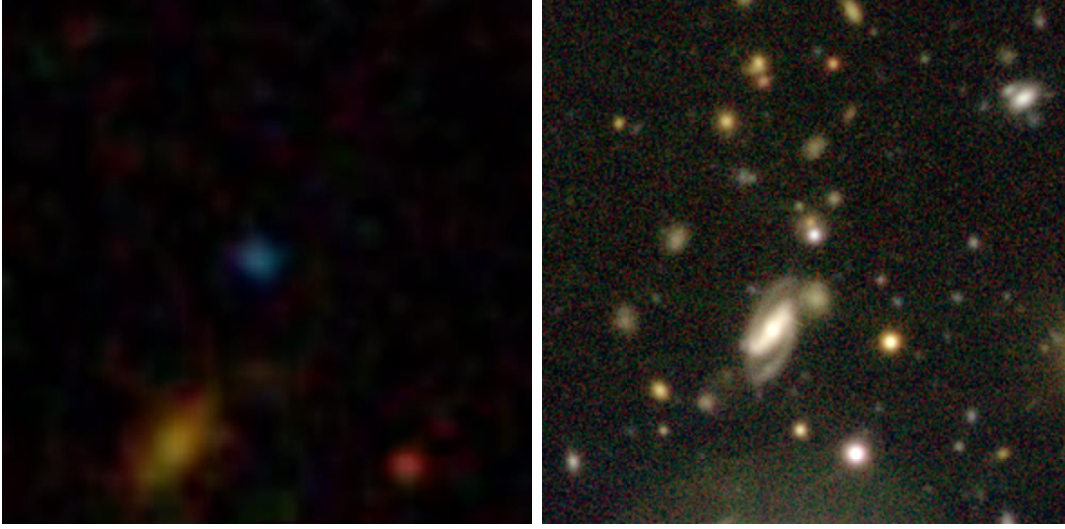


Figure 2: SDSS (*left*) and HSC (*right*) imaging of ERQ J2323-0100. The gorgeous HSC data reveal a potential companion galaxy to J2323-0100 at the 11 o'clock position.

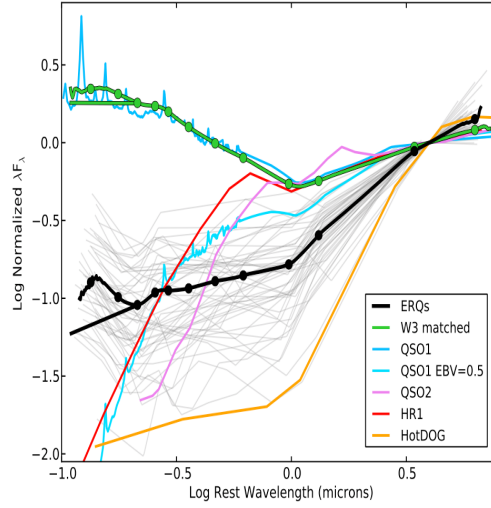


Figure 3: (*left*) From Hamann et al., 2017, the normalized median SEDs for Type 1 non-BALs in the core ERQ sample (black curve) plus blue quasars matched to the core ERQs in W3 magnitude (green curve) as in Fig. 8, the Type 1 quasar template QSO1 with and without reddening equal to $E(BV) = 0.5$ (light blue, from Polletta et al. 2007), a typical Type 2 quasar (QSO2) from Mateos et al. (2013, purple), a typical heavily reddened Type 1 quasar (HR1) from Banerji et al. (2013), and a typical HotDOG from Tsai et al. (2015). The light grey curves are SEDs of individual core ERQs.

Object Name (SDSS)	J0834+0159	J1232+0912	J2215-0056	J2323-0100
Object R.A.	08:34:48.48	12:32:41.73	22:15:24.00	23:23:26.17
object declination	+01:59:21.1	+09:12:09.3	−00:56:43.8	−01:00:33.1
<i>r</i> -band AB magnitude	21.20±0.05	21.11± 0.05	22.27±0.12	21.62± 0.08
WISE W4-band Vega magnitude	6.88±0.09	6.78 ±0.09	7.91±0.24	7.76±0.22
WISE W4-band flux, F_ν	>6 mJy	>6 mJy	6 mJy	>6 mJy
$i_{\text{AB}} - W3_{\text{AB}}$	6.0	6.8	6.2	7.2
REW C IV	209±6	225±3	153±5	256±5
Redshift z_{in}	2.591	2.381	2.509	2.356
C IV FWHM km s ^{−1}	2863±65	4787±52	4280±112	3989±62
O III FWHM erg s ^{−1}	2811	4971	3057	2625
Spectro-polarimetry	×	✓	✓	×
VLA data	?	?	?	?
ALMA Band 6	tbc	✓	tbc	✓
<i>HST</i> Cycle 24	ACS/WFC3 obtained	ACS/WFC3 <i>pending</i>	ACS/WFC3 <i>pending</i>	ACS/WFC3 <i>pending</i>
JWST target visibility (Start)	2019-04-01	2019-05-08	2019-05-22	2019-06-07
JWST target visibility (End)	2019-05-07	2019-07-01	2019-07-15	2019-07-29

Table 1:

■ Technical Description

We propose to use MIRI MRS to observe four quasars. Details of our four quasar targets are given in Table 1.

- a Plan for Alternative Targets:
- b There are no Special Observational Requirements for our ERS ERQ.
- c We are not inducing Coordinated Parallels observations.
- d The are no duplicated observations.

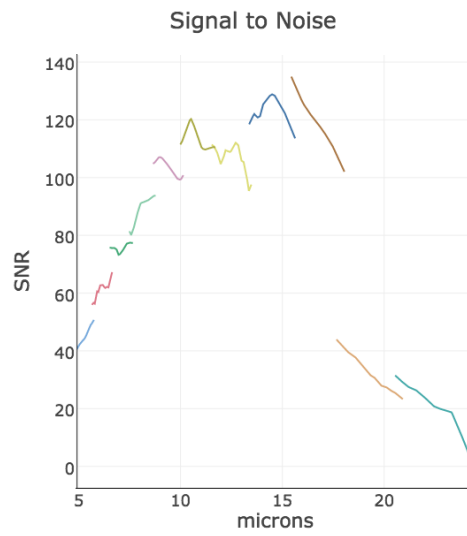


Figure 4:

- Plan for Alternative Targets
- Special Requirements
- Justify Coordinated Parallel Observations
- Justify Duplications

■ Data Processing & Analysis Plan

1 General Outline and Motivations Driving Data Processing & Analysis

Our ERQ ERS proposal is the first part of a multi-cycle proposal project and plan. As such, we are *already highly motivated to produce the data processing tools, codes, documentation and identify the critical science-enabling products well in advance of the release of the Cycle 2 Call for Proposals (September 2019)*.

Our Science-Enabling Products team consists of four main parts::

- “Core Coders”;
- Website and `readthedocs` Writers;
- Observational Follow-up;
- Senior members of staff, able to supply students/ ask for funding;
- Operating akin to a steering committee;

2 `mrs_analyzer`

`mrs_analyzer` is a Python module for analyzing MRS data; `mrsfringe` is a Python module for mitigating MRS fringing issues;

And will integrate with... <https://github.com/STScI-JWST>

see e.g. https://github.com/STScI-JWST/jwst/blob/master/jwst/mrs_imatch/mrs_imatch_step.py

3 The NASA Ames PAH IR Spectroscopic Database

We will link to the NASA Ames PAH IR Spectroscopic Database::

<http://www.astrochem.org/pahdb/>

Bauschlicher et al, 2010, ApJS, 189, 341; Boersma et al, 2014, ApJS, 211, 8; Mattioda et al., ApJS, in prep.

4 PandExo: An Exoplanet ETC

<https://natashabatalha.github.io/PandExo/>

5 The SMART Data Analysis Package for the Infrared Spectrograph¹ on the Spitzer Space Telescope

The SMART Data Analysis Package for the Infrared Spectrograph on the Spitzer Space Telescope from S. J. U. Higdon,³ D. Devost,³ J. L. Higdon,³ B. R. Brandl,⁴ J. R. Houck,³ P. Hall,³ D. Barry,³ V. Charmandaris,^{3,5} J. D. T. Smith,⁶ G. C. Sloan,³ and J. Green⁷ Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 116:975984, 2004 October.

6 Delivery Schedule for Science-Enabling Products.

Here we give the delivery schedule for science-enabling products. Proposals must present a delivery schedule for science-enabling products. A description of STScI pipeline data products, processing and analysis software, and their anticipated availability, will be provided by the May 2017 release of the final version of this Call for Proposals. Proposers may consider multiple deliveries, with more advanced products provided over longer timescales. Proposals may include the collection, processing and analysis of ancillary data as part of an integrated DD ERS proposal.

7 Co-Investigators and Delivery of Science-Enabling Products.

Co-Investigators, together with the PI (and any Co-PIs) comprise a core team with the responsibility of developing and delivering science-enabling products as described in the proposal, as well as carrying out selected key aspects of the science investigations. A Co-I must have a well-defined, and generally sustained, continuing role in team activities, serve under the direction of the PI, or co-PI(s). Co-investigators may or may not receive funding, pending eligibility, through the DD ERS program.

7.1 *Dr. Nicholas Ross*

P.I. Dr. Nic Ross is a deep believer in delivering science-enabling products, including datasets, catalogs, analysis codes, plots, algorithms and where possible computational resources to the wide astronomical community. As such, the call for delivering science-enabling products by the release of the Cycle 2 Call for Proposals (September 2019) is fully inline with his scientific practice.

Ross has been developing and building up his GitHub Repositories over the last year or so, github.com/d80b2t and indeed now does all his analysis and paper writing on GitHub.

Ross will devote a considerable amount of his personal research time (and due to his STFC ERF has 100% FTE for research) to leading the development and timely production of the ERS ERQ science-enabling products.

7.2 *Dr. David Rosario*

Co-PI Dr. David Rosario is awesome and also loves to write code. ;-)

7.3 *Prof. David Alexander*

Prof. Alexander is an expert in high- z obscured AGN. He will use his considerable *Spitzer IRS* experience to help test our MIRI MRS data-analysis toolkit.

7.4 *Dr. Rachael Alexandroff*

Dr. Alexandroff is an leading expert on the ERQ population. She will bring to bear her now considerable and recent data analysis (long-slit optical, polarimetry, radio) data analysis experience to build our MIRI MRS data-analysis toolkit.

7.5 *Dr. Richard Bielby*

7.6 *Prof. Niel Brandt*

7.7 *Dr. Rob Crain*

Dr. Rob Crain is a Royal Society University Research Fellow and will lead the theoretical team.

7.8 *Prof. Xiaohui Fan*

Prof. Fan is a leader in surveys of high-redshift quasars and reionization. He has extensive experience in studying quasars and their host galaxies with *HST* and *Spitzer*.

7.9 *Prof. Fred Hamann*

7.10 *Prof. Dale Kocevski*

Prof. Kocevski is... We are also asking for the appropriate level of post-doctoral support for Prof. Kocevski.

7.11 *Prof. Linhua Jiang*

7.12 *Dr. Stephanie LaMassa*

Dr. LaMassa is currently at the STScI and is already involved with the documentation efforts there. As such, Dr. LaMassa will help with those efforts, along with writing code and potentially leading follow-up where appropriate. She will also be a natural link to the direct efforts of the Space Telescope Science Institute.

7.13 *Dr. Chelsea MacLeod*

7.14 *Dr. Ian McGreer*

7.15 *Prof. Brice Menard*

7.16 *Dr. James Mullaney*

7.17 *Prof. Adam Myers*

Prof. Myers is an expert on the statistical analysis of reddened, obscured and optically luminous quasars. He has co-authored many well-cited publications on targeting quasars, quasar clustering, high-redshift and unusual quasars, and quasars in the time domain. Prof. Myers has made follow-up observations of quasars, and other objects, at telescopes on five continents. His work has been funded multiple times by the NSF and NASA, including via space telescope programs such as those for *Chandra* and *Spitzer*. He has served on time allocation committees for GALEX and the *HST*.

Prof. Myers has also worked extensively in large survey collaborations, often in formal management roles. He is an Architect of SDSS-III and SDSS-IV, was the quasar target selection lead for the SDSS-IV/eBOSS survey, is the Level 3 Target Selection Manager for the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI) and is the documentation and website lead for the Legacy Surveys (<http://legacysurvey.org>). *Prof. Myers is a strong advocate for transparent and reproducible science. For example, as part of his work on DESI, he has contributed over 10,000 lines of code to publicly visible github repositories.*

7.18 *Dr. Jessie Runnoe*

Dr. Runnoe is an expert on quasar central engines at radio through X-ray wavelengths. Drawing on her vast observational experience, she will contribute to the development of the MIRI MRS data-analysis toolkit and assist with follow-up observations of the ERQ core sample. She will be part of the Core Coding and Observational Follow-up groups.

7.19 *Prof. Don Schneider*

Prof. Donald Schneider has been involved with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey since its earliest design stages in the 1980s and has considerable experience in preparing large datasets for community use, via leading several editions of the SDSS Quasar Catalogs and participating in the annual public Data Releases. Prof. Schneider will be on the follow-up Observational team, obtaining time on the HET if necessary.

- 7.20 *Prof. Tom Shanks*
- 7.21 *Dr. John Stott*
- 7.22 *Prof. Michael Strauss*
- 7.23 *Dr. Renske Smit*
- 7.24 *Prof. Martin Ward*
- 7.25 *Prof. Gillian Wright*
- 7.26 *Prof. Nadia Zakamsaka*