

Memorandum of Understanding between the International Centre for Theoretical Physics – South American Institute for Fundamental Research (ICTP-SAIFR) and the UCLA Bhaumik Institute for Theoretical Physics (UCLA Bhaumik)

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to encourage scientific exchange visits, joint activities and research collaborations between ICTP-SAIFR and UCLA Bhaumik.

It is agreed that:

1A Doctoral students and postdocs and faculty researchers at both institutions will be encouraged to spend extended visits of two weeks to three months at the other institution. In order to qualify for such a visit, a candidate must submit a request at least two months prior to the visit. The request should explain the benefit of the proposed visit and contain a brief description of the research to be undertaken during the visit. When the research visit results in one or more publications, both institutions should be acknowledged in the paper.

1B Each institution will appoint for the purposes of this collaboration an exchange visit coordinator who will receive requests for visits under this program and ensure that they are dealt with in a timely manner. The host institution will provide office space and computing facilities to the visitor and help to find local accommodations and assist with visa requirements.

1C For at least 3 years, funding of up to 25,000 dollars/year for the local and travel costs of participants in these interchange visits will come from the Simons Foundation Targeted Grant to Instituto Amigos do SAIFR.

2A ICTP-SAIFR and the Bhaumik Institute will organize joint advanced schools and workshops on topics related to ongoing research at the two institutions. The top students at these joint activities will be invited to participate in the exchange agreement.

2B Funding for the organization of these joint activities will be divided between the ICTP-SAIFR and the Bhaumik Institute, and the host institution will be responsible for providing the necessary infrastructure to organize the activity.

3A UCLA Bhaumik has agreed to assist in the recruitment of world-class faculty to ICTP-SAIFR by offering a visiting fellow position as an incentive to the hiring of an ICTP-SAIFR faculty member in the area of gravitational wave physics.

3B Following the joint approval of this visiting fellow by the two institutions, UCLA Bhaumik will provide for at least 5 years a research fellowship of 25,000 dollars/year to this ICTP-SAIFR faculty member. In addition, UCLA Bhaumik will provide local and travel costs for this ICTP-SAIFR faculty member to visit UCLA Bhaumik for a period of up to three months per year.

4 This agreement is valid for an initial period of five years, whereupon its terms will be revisited in the light of experience, with the expectation that it be renewed on a mutually agreeable basis, for a further five years at a time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan Berkovits".

Nathan Berkovits
ICTP-SAIFR Director

Date Feb. 10, 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zvi Bern".

Zvi Bern
UCLA Bhaumik Director

Date 10/2/26