



## Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-1516

(617) 495-7000



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We are sorry that we are not able to join with you at the annual IKI gathering to remember our friend Mike Revnivtsev. From the time we first met Mike he was always enthusiastic at everything he did - from organizing a party to conceiving and writing a proposal or a paper. No one was more excited or dynamic than Mike. Mike had strong opinions and views about how everything should be done. Grocery shopping with him was a thrilling event - from the drive in his car to the actual act of shopping - all were unforgettable. No one could compare to Mike for getting everyone together on a weekend evening and being the most charming and welcoming host. Pulling out all the stops. Offering the most amazing variety and quantities of food! and piling it all high on the plates that were offered to his guests.

Mike was the enthusiastic driver of the program to use a 1Ms Chandra observation to image the Galactic Ridge emission. He crafted the proposal, carried out the observation planning, analyzed the data, and conceived a masterful Nature paper (Revnivtsev et al. 2009 Nature, 458, 1142) that definitively resolved the bulk of the "diffuse" X-ray glow into discrete stellar sources. Untangling a mystery that had lasted a quarter of a century, Mike showed that "at energies of  $\sim 6-7$  keV, more than 80 per cent of the seemingly diffuse X-ray emission is resolved into discrete sources, probably accreting white dwarfs and coronally active stars." (Note that recent studies suggest that there might still be some residual emission that is truly diffuse.)

This Galactic Ridge study prompted further papers that revealed a component of X-ray emission from all galaxies - the integrated emission from their populations of coronally active stars and accreting white dwarfs - that could only be resolved into discrete sources in our own Galaxy. In more distant galaxies, the equivalent of the Galactic Ridge, the emission from the old stellar population, appears as an unresolvable glow from millions of individual stellar sources.

Mike's scientific contributions, his enthusiasm, and irrepressible passion for everything that he undertook will always be remembered.

With great sadness,  
Bill & Christine, Julia, Daniel, Miranda