

I am Falk Herwig, Professor in Physics & Astronomy at the University of Victoria and Director of the Astronomy Research Centre (since 2024). My research spans stellar structure and evolution, the origin of the elements (nuclear astrophysics), and computational multi-physics simulations. From 2022–2025 my group produced 24+ refereed papers, including high-impact work (e.g., *Nature Astronomy*, *Physical Review Letters*) and internationally recognized leadership in computational simulations of nucleosynthesis and 3D stellar hydrodynamics. I also pursue methodological translation across disciplines, including biophysics modeling collaborations.

I would bring to the committee a perspective shaped by leading a research group that depends on shared infrastructure (especially advanced computing), partnerships with national laboratories and public-sector facilities, and collaboration across disciplinary boundaries. I'm attentive to what enables creative, original work—including blue-sky inquiry—and to how diverse teams, across disciplines, backgrounds, and life circumstances (including disability and mental health), produce stronger research. I would critically weigh how candidates understand the transformational changes AI is bringing to research—changes that pose significant risks alongside significant opportunities for discovery, rigour, integrity, and training.