

# Exploring the Universe from Microscopic to Macroscopic Scales

**Dr. Mohab Abou Zeid, ELEMENTS Administrative Director**

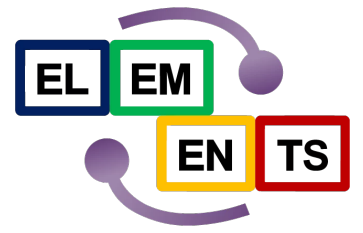
EXPLORE 2024 Summer School  
FIAS, Frankfurt, 21 August 2024

HESSEN



Hessisches  
Ministerium für  
Wissenschaft  
und Kunst

ELEMENTS is a Research Cluster funded  
by the HMWK (2021-2025)



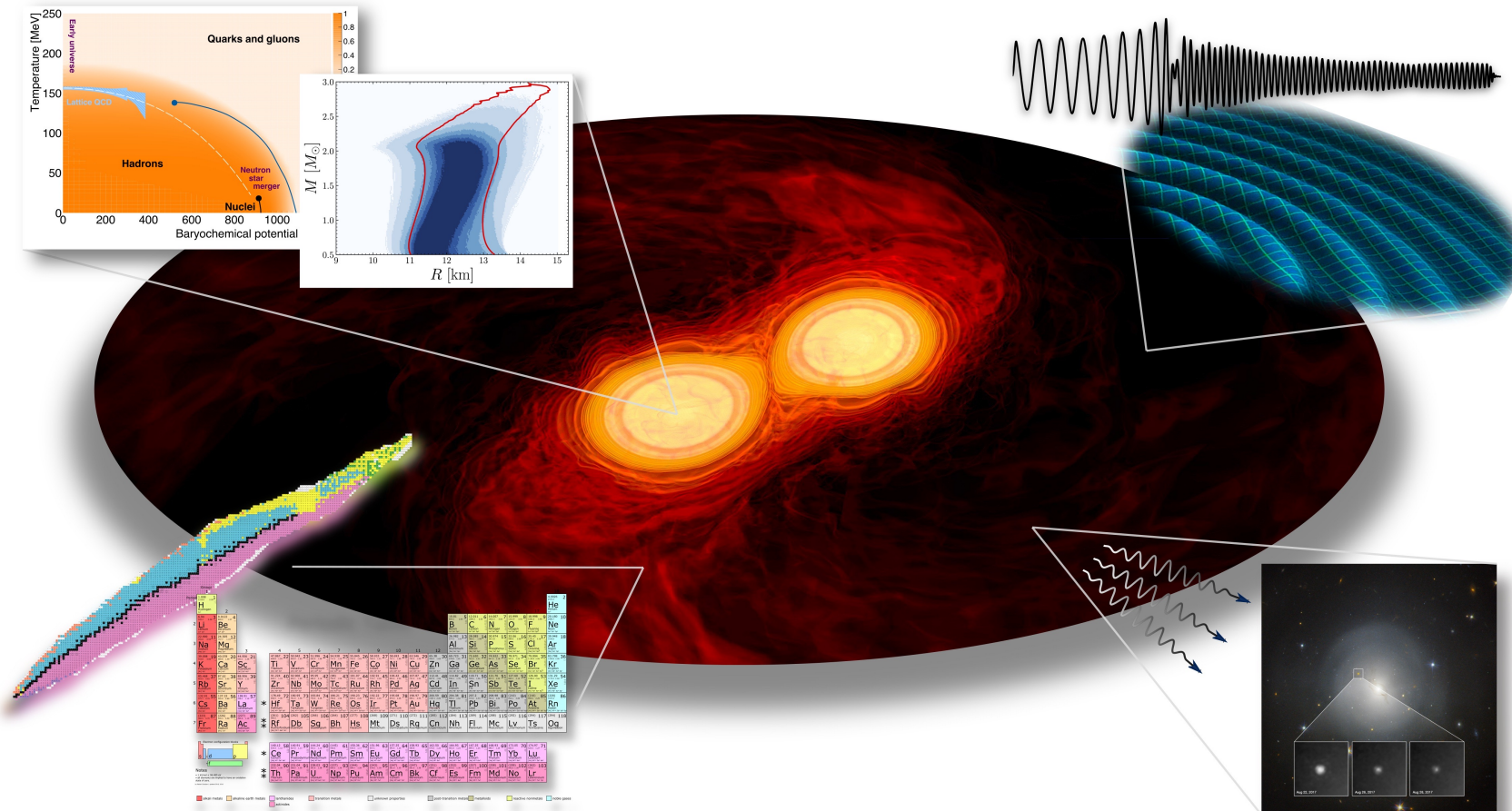
ELEMENTS aims at understanding **heavy-elements nucleosynthesis** from **first principles**

*There has been a revolution in astrophysics over the past two decades and now is a unique time to address the following question, which is the main one for ELEMENTS:*

**Where do gold and the other heavy elements  
come from?**

# Microphysics of strong interaction

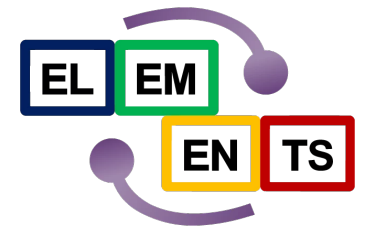
# Macrophysics of strong interaction



# Microphysics of the r-process

# Macrophysics of the r-process

## FOUR ELEMENTS INTERRELATED WORK AREAS TO ADDRESS THESE QUESTIONS:



What are the properties of matter under extreme conditions?

What information about merging binary neutron stars is provided by gravitational waves and other ejecta?

What are the microphysical conditions under which r-process nucleosynthesis operates?

What do astronomical observations tell us about the synthesis of heavy elements?

WA1: the **microphysics** of the **strong interaction**

WA2: the **macrophysics** of the **strong interaction**

WA3: the **microphysics** of the **r-process**

WA4: the **macrophysics** of the **r-process**

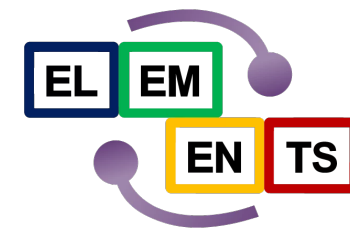
ELEMENTS aims to provide the „**complete scientific production chain**“ of heavy elements from fundamental interactions to observations on Earth

# Who is in our team (I)?



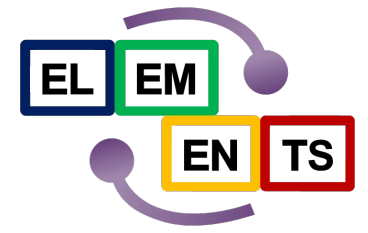
## Principal Investigators

- Good mix of seniority and expertise
  - demonstrated outstanding leadership
  - several prizes and awards
  - highly visible: conferences, journals, panels, etc.
- **9** PIs recognised as in **top 2%** of their fields (Stanford citation analysis)
- **12** (8) **ERC-Grants** (Grantees)
- **1 Leibniz-Prize** (2022)
- **1 (+1) AvH / 1 Heisenberg** – Professorships
- **32%** female (German physics average: 12%)
- **8** PIs with **international** background  
(1 Danish, 1 French, 2 Italian, 1 Russian, 2 Spanish, 1 Ukrainian)
- average age of PIs: **48 yrs**



# Who is our team (II)?

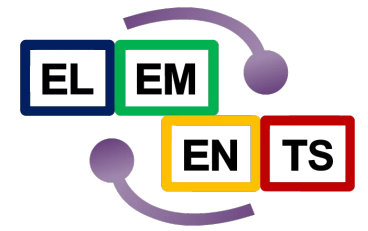
## Director and Officers



- **Administrative Director**  
Dr. Mohab Abou Zeid
- **Administrative Assistants**  
Ms. Jessica Kramer, Ms. Christin Schlemm
- **Science Communication Officer**  
Dr. Phyllis Mania
- **Equal Opportunities Officer**  
Dr. Enikö Baga
- **Research Data Manager**  
Dr. Johann Isaak



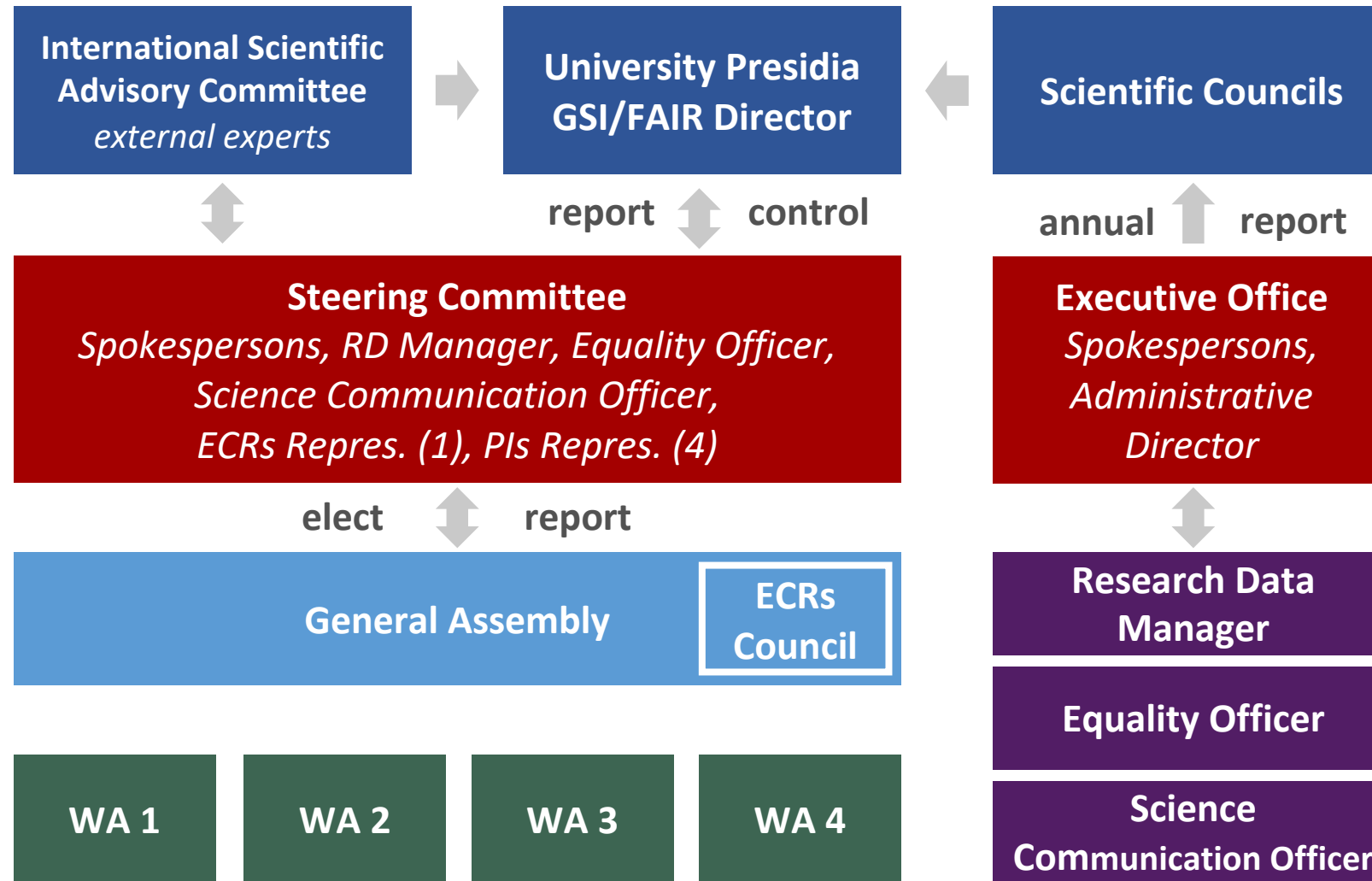
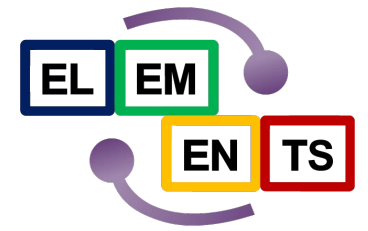
# ELEMENTS Support Structures



- **Research-Oriented Teaching:** English Master Courses „Accelerator Science“ and „Nuclear Astrophysics“
- **Early-Career Researchers:** Ira Rischowski-Program, Young Investigator Groups
- **Internationalization:** highly international environment, intense visitors program, guest lecturers, Ira Rischowski-Program,
- **Governance & Quality Management:** (**Dr. Abou-Zeid**), INGA, Int'l Advisory Board
- **Science Communication:** Science Comm. Officer (**Dr. Mania**), ELEMENTS-Van, TURMsouth, Neutron Star exhibit
- **Equality and Diversity:** Equality Officer (**Dr. Baga**), Ira Rischowski-Program, WOW-Physics!
- **Research Data Management:** RDM-Officer (**Dr. Isaak**), PUNCH4NFDI
- **Open Access:** „green-OA“ strategy, arXiv, RMU-open access policy
- **Sustainability:** reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> footprint; energy-recycling accelerators; Green IT Cube

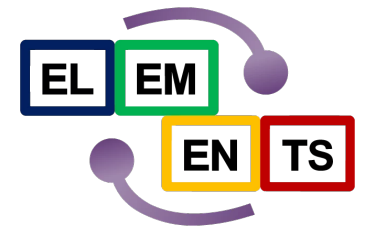


# ELEMENTS organisation

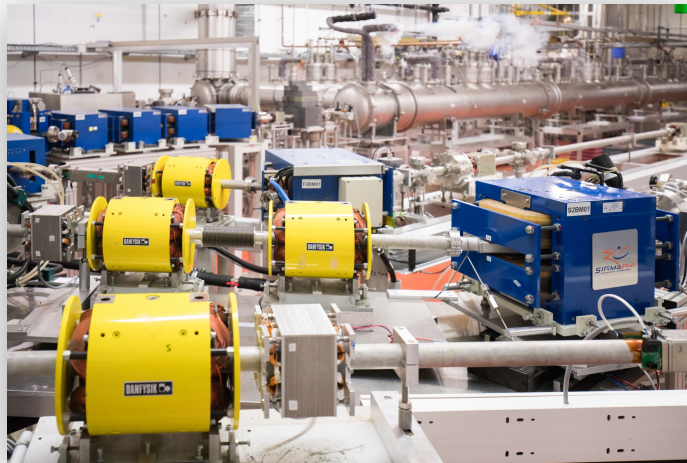




# World-unique Large-Scale Research Infrastructure



GSJ/FAIR (top left) and S-DALINAC (bottom) at Darmstadt



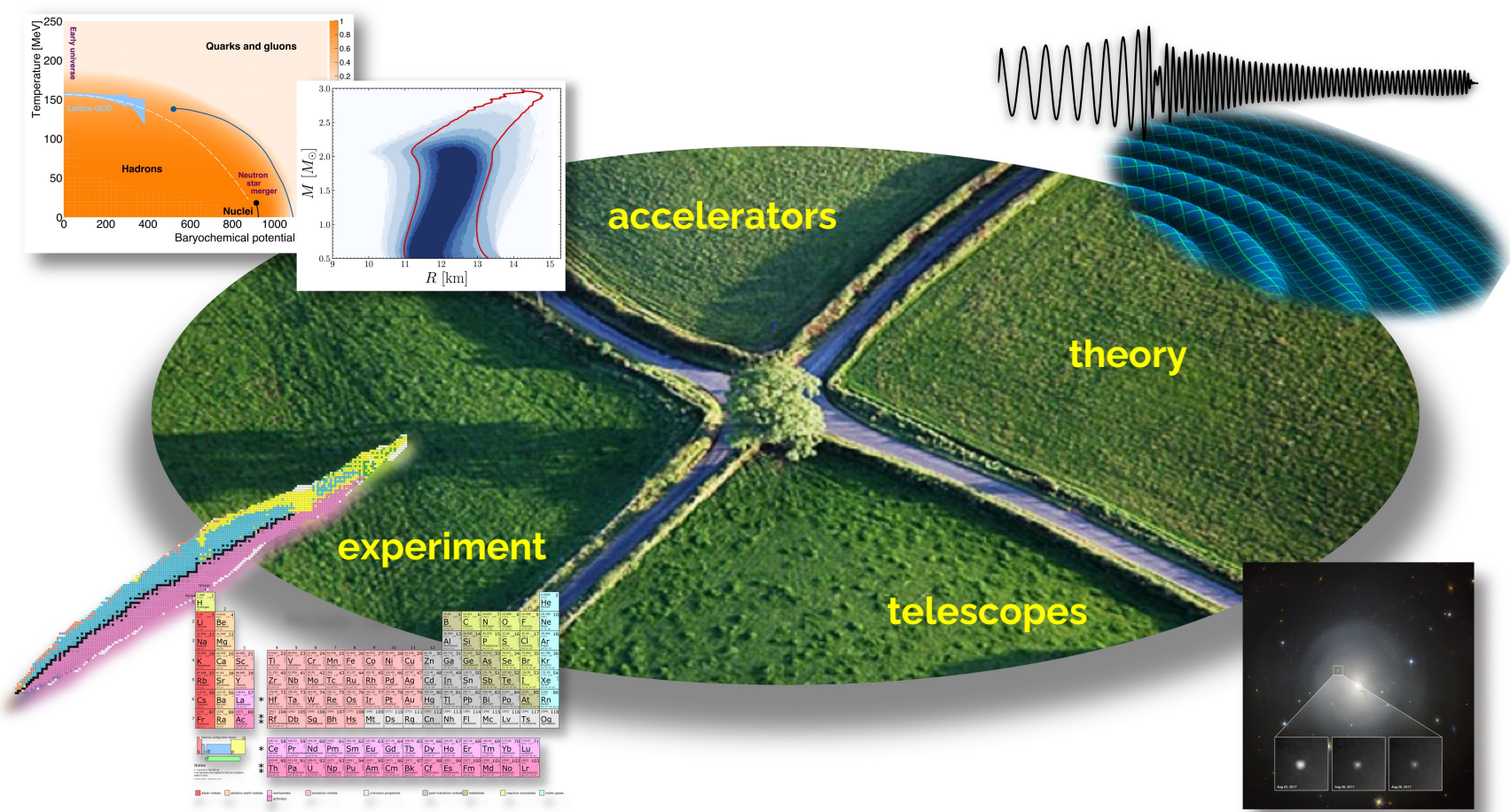
## Experimental Infrastructure

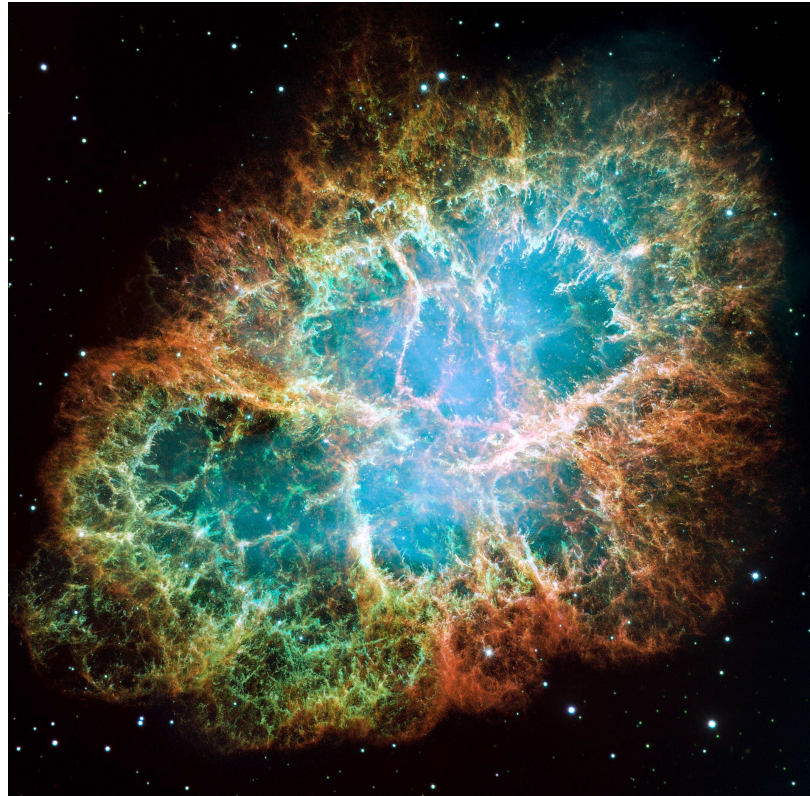
- GSI/FAIR (CRYRING,ESR,HADES,R3B)
- S-DALINAC / DICE@ESR
- PUMA @ CERN
- HEAVENS

## Computational Infrastructure:

- Goethe-CSC
- Lichtenberg-II
- Green IT Cube

# ELEMENTS is a **crossroad**: nuclear/gravitational/astro-physics





Thank you for your attention!