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News for October 17, 2005

Team Proposes Paradigm Shift in Robotic Space Exploration

A team of interdisciplinary scientists has unveiled a proposal to make core changes in the robotic exploration of the solar system. In addition to spaceborne orbiters, the "new paradigm" would involve sending orbiter-guided blimps (or other airborne agents) carrying instruments and sensors to chosen areas of a planet, as well as using herds of small, robotic, ground-based explorers.

Cancer Center Gets \$18 Million Boost

The National Cancer Institute recently awarded an \$18 million grant to the new Nanosystems Biology Cancer Center at Caltech. A collaborative effort with the Institute for Systems Biology and UCLA, the center will place a focus on development and validation of tools for early detection and stratification of the disease. James Heath, the Gilloon Professor of Chemistry, will direct.

Astronomers Solve Mystery of Gamma-Ray Bursts

An international team of astronomers has found good support for the idea that short gamma-ray bursts are caused by violent collisions in star-forming galaxies between a black hole and a neutron star, as well as by collisions of two neutron stars. Their findings solve a decades-old mystery.

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