

Chris Bird

Chris Bird, currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Physics & Astronomy at the University of Victoria, has been receiving attention of late for two papers he co-wrote on the search for light dark matter in existing collider experiments.

The initial proposal, published in Physical Review Letters in 2004, posits that experiments such as BaBar in the U.S and BELLE in Japan, which analyze many millions of decays of heavy particles known as B-mesons, could be used to search for elusive dark matter particles. Following this work, several teams working on these experiments have begun adding references to this possibility to their own publications. Mr. Bird was also invited by the journal, Modern Physics Letters A, to expand his results to include several other models of dark matter in a 2006 article.

Mr. Bird was born and raised in Victoria, British Columbia, and wanted to be a scientist from a young age. Originally intending to enter robotics in university, he was inspired in high school by several popular physics books to enter the field of physics instead. In 1999, he graduated from the University of Victoria with a B.Sc in Honours Mathematics & Physics, and based on his near perfect GPA and his perfect results on the GRE standardized exams was offered several prestigious opportunities for graduate research. The following September, he entered the University of Alberta.

Unfortunately, as he was starting graduate school

his father suffered a stroke and was left paralyzed. At the request of the hospital, Mr. Bird moved back to Victoria to care for his father until other arrangements could be made. In the interim, he enrolled in the graduate program at the University of Victoria, and eight months later was working part-time at the TRIUMF particle accelerator in Vancouver, BC.

In 2002, Mr. Bird returned to the University of Victoria, entering the doctoral program in the physics department. He is currently writing his dissertation, while continuing to care for his parents fulltime, and expects to graduate this summer.