

Supermassive Black Holes, the DNA of galaxies?

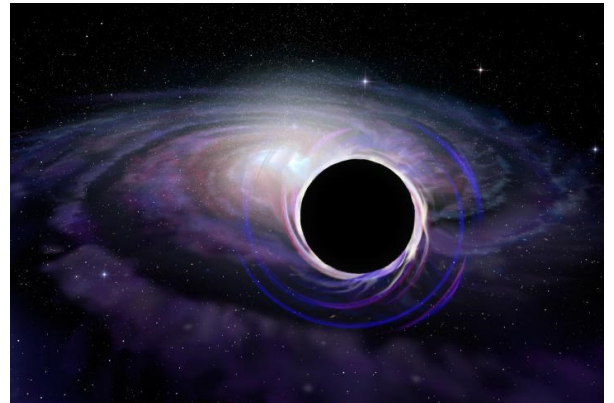
by

Marc Sarzi

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College Lane Campus, Hatfield
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Supermassive black holes, million to billion times more massive than the Sun, are now believed to lurk at the centre of every galaxy. Furthermore, it would appear that supermassive black holes "know" in which galaxy they live, as bigger galaxies contain bigger supermassive black holes and vice versa. This suggests that the formation of

galaxies and the growth of supermassive black holes is tightly linked, which is surprising considering that despite their tremendous mass such black holes are still much smaller than their host galaxies, just like DNA molecules to a human body. Could they play a similarly vital role in the growth of galaxies?



Picture: republica.com

Dr Marc Sarzi is a former Reader in Astrophysics at the Centre for Astrophysics Research of the University of Hertfordshire, having recently moved to a new position of Head of Research at Armagh Observatory & Planetarium, in Northern Ireland.

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This event is free but places may need to be reserved.