

## **Infrared Windows on Galactic Structure**

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**Abstract:** I will provide an overview on the recent work in elucidating Galactic structure using the combination of 1-5 micron surveys of Galactic plane with Spitzer, UKIDSS and 2MASS. The recent work of Benjamin using Spitzer observations of red clump giants to map the stellar distribution as well as the Rayleigh-Jeans Color Excess method of Majewski et al. (2011) will be discussed. In addition, the use of infrared dark clouds in conjunction with millimeter-wave spectroscopy to determine the molecular gas distribution will be described. Finally, the potential of WFIRST to revolutionize our understanding of the structure of our Galaxy will be presented.