Abstract:
The joint U.S. and German Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), to develop and operate a 2.5-meter infrared airborne telescope in a Boeing 747SP, has obtained spectacular images of the Orion Molecular Cloud and the Galactic Center using the FORCAST camera in the 5 to 40 micron spectral region. I will give a brief overview of the SOFIA Observatory and Telescope. I will discuss the SOFIA science results along with complementary observations with the Keck 10 meter telescopes in Hawaii using adaptive optics at 1.6 to 4.8 microns. Future observing opportunities with SOFIA and participation in future instrument developments, over the 20 year lifetime of the observatory will be discussed.