"Confronting the Dark Energy Crisis in Fundamental Physics"

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The discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe has precipitated a crisis in fundamental physics. Dark Energy, which drives the apparent gravitational repulsion between regions of empty space, poses a major challenge to our understanding of the interface between gravity and quantum mechanics. I will describe projects, both under way and in the planning stages, that are designed to improve our understanding of the Dark Energy problem, with a focus on Harvard's role in this endeavor. I will leave a clear exposition of the theoretical understanding of Dark Energy to some subsequent speaker. An interesting open issue is how long we will have to wait to hear that talk.

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