



COSPAR News

April 2020 Issue 3

COSPAR 2020 Scientific Assembly Postponed to January 2021

The leadership of COSPAR and the Local Organizing Committee for COSPAR 2020 in Sydney, Australia have concluded that with the worldwide pandemic and accompanying social disruption and economic collapse, COSPAR 2020 must be postponed.

The new dates for the 43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly will be **28 January – 4 February 2021** and hereafter will be referred to as COSPAR 2021.

The extensive planning and preparations for COSPAR 2020 are completely transferable to the new dates, by which time we anticipate that the thirst for knowledge and personal collaboration throughout the global space research community can and will be met with an extremely successful COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Australia.

We sincerely hope that the entire COSPAR community is able to remain healthy and that the extraordinary efforts underway to contain the coronavirus and preserve economic security are successful.

In the meantime, let's continue to work together virtually so that we ensure a Sydney summer in January 2021 will both brighten our outlook and continue our cause of promoting and facilitating international cooperation and advances in space research.

Len A. Fisk
COSPAR President

Iver Cairns
Chair, Prog. Com.

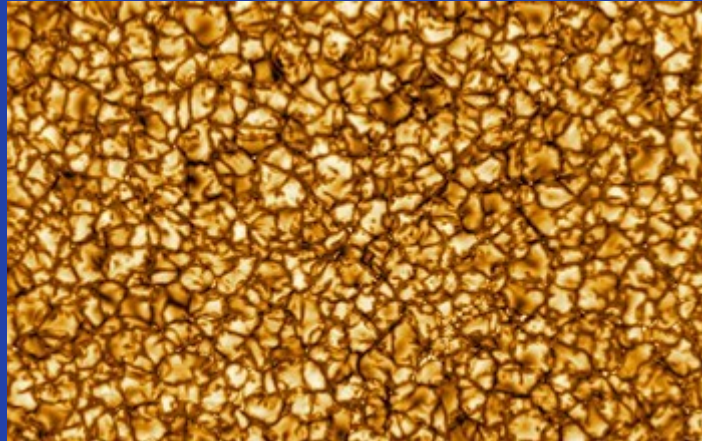
Russell Boyce
Chair, Local Organizing Com.

Space Agencies Working Around Coronavirus

Space agencies around the world are adapting their working practices to the current Coronavirus pandemic. [NASA](#) and [ESA](#) leadership recently completed an assessment of work underway, focussing on protecting their staff whilst assessing mission-critical work and work that can be done remotely. Likewise, [CNES](#) has instituted home working on a massive scale across its four field centres. [DLR](#) is transitioning to minimum operational status. If your agency has put into place similar policies that are described on the web, do not hesitate to send the link to the address indicated at the bottom of this newsletter.

Space Science Snapshot: Highest Resolution Image of the Sun's Surface

(NSF news release, 29 January 2020)



The US National Solar Observatory's newest solar telescope, the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope, has produced the highest resolution image of the Sun's surface ever taken. In this picture, taken at 789 nanometers, we can see features as small as 30km in size for the first time. A pattern of turbulent, "boiling" plasma is shown that covers the entire Sun. The cell-like structures--each about the size of Texas (or France)--are the signature of violent motions that transport heat from the inside of the sun to its surface.

(Image credit: NSO/AURA/NSF)

National Member News: New Zealand

On 8 February 2020 **New Zealand** became a member of COSPAR with the Royal Society Te Apārangi as the national scientific institute. The COSPAR community extends a warm welcome.



Capacity Building in Small Satellites Development and Operations for Universities in Developing Countries

The COSPAR Panel for Capacity Building (PCB) is establishing a long-term capacity building project with the International Satellite Program in Research and Education (INSPIRE), based on the development and scientific exploitation of small satellites to enable space hardware and instrumentation development and to provide guidance on best practices for hardware development, sustainable space activities and crafting space policy among emerging space nations.

More information will be provided soon..



COSPAR Meeting Update

Capacity Building Workshop:

Data analysis for Planetary Sciences

Antofagasta, Chile

Workshop postponed. New dates TBD

COSPAR Meeting Update

5th COSPAR Symposium:

Space Science with Small Satellites

24-29 October 2021 (dates TBC)

Singapore

<https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/next-cospar-symposium/>





COSPAR Community

In Memoriam: Johannes Geiss

Johannes Geiss passed away on 30 January 2020 at the age of 93. He was one of the few great men of science and a pioneer in many areas: geophysics, astrophysics, and space science. He was a world leader and foremost expert on the measurements of the composition, and the use of data to determine the history, present state, and future of astronomical objects, including meteorites, the moon, the Sun and solar wind, comets, planetary magnetospheres, the interstellar medium, the protosolar nebula and the early universe. Read the full text [here](#).



COSPAR Community

On 21 November 2019, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, invested University of British Columbia Psychology Emeritus Professor Peter Suedfield as an Officer of the Order of Canada for his groundbreaking work on the psychological impacts of extreme environments. One of Canada's highest civilian honours, the Order of Canada recognises outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. A major aspect of Prof. Suedfield's research has focussed on the psychological well-being of astronauts. Julie Payette is a former astronaut herself, completing two spaceflights (STS-96 and 127), and logging 25 days in space. Prof. Suedfield is a member of COSPAR's National Committee for Canada. Read the citation [here](#).

On the Radar

It's Raining Iron

An extreme planet where it may rain iron has been observed by researchers using [ESO's Very Large Telescope \(VLT\)](#). The ultra-hot giant exoplanet has a day side where temperatures climb above 2,400 degrees Celsius, high enough to vaporise metals. Strong winds carry iron vapour to the cooler night side where it condenses into iron droplets. (Artist's impression of the night side of WASP-76b. Image credit: ESO)



On the Radar

Betelgeuse Dimming

Using [ESO's Very Large Telescope \(VLT\)](#) astronomers have captured the unprecedented dimming of Betelgeuse, a red supergiant star in Orion. The new images of the star's surface, taken late last year with the [SPHERE](#) instrument, show not only the fading red supergiant but also how its apparent shape is changing. Betelgeuse began to dim late last year. At the time of writing Betelgeuse is at about 36% of its normal brightness, a change noticeable even to the naked eye. (Image credit: ESO/M. Montargès et al.)



Jobs & Opportunities

The Annual Call for Proposals for the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) opens April 2020. The OAD has identified Flagship (or Signature) projects that encapsulate the idea of astronomy for development, and which have the potential for global roll-out.

ISSI is inviting applications for the position of full time director. Deadline for applications: 15 April 2020.

Space Science Quote

“I have not the smallest molecule of faith in aerial navigation other than ballooning.” Baron William Thomson Kelvin, 1896.

Space Science Highlight from the Past

The dwarf planet Pluto was discovered 90 years ago, on 18 February 1930, by Clyde W. Tombaugh, originally considered the 9th planet in our solar system until the IAU reclassified it as a dwarf planet in 2006.



Contribute to COSPAR NEWS!

If you have an announcement or item of news for the COSPAR--and wider space--community, please send it to leigh.fergus@cosparhq.cnes.fr