



COSPAR News

June 2020 Issue 4

Message from the Editors

This fourth issue comes to you in a very different context from that prevailing in early April. Some of us have now been working from home for over two months, some have continued to go into work, but everyone has been obliged to change their way of life as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. You may have read COSPAR's *Conversations in Confinement*, initiated by COSPAR President Len Fisk, in which he has been reflecting and inviting comments on how COSPAR can best fulfill its mission after the crisis is over. Meanwhile, space agencies have continued to readjust (see the [NASA](#), [ESA](#), [CNES](#), [DLR](#), and [UK Space Agency](#) responses). Of course, with missions in flight this has included activities to maintain on-going space science programmes, whilst catering for all necessary safety requirements. Operations and mission planning, for example, have embraced virtual meetings extremely effectively; we can all marvel at the way that the science programmes have been able to continue in a world that is so well IT-connected. Indeed, there are lessons to be learnt from this. Some agencies are now preparing for a gradual return to site, although not quite “as normal.”

Please take all necessary measures to stay well.

Richard Harrison and Leigh Fergus

COSPAR Statement on Combating Systemic Racism and Other Forms of Discrimination

[Full statement here](#)

Space Science Snapshot:

Jupiter's 'Jack-o-Lantern' Glow Captured with UH-built Instrument



Researchers recently released some of the sharpest images ever of Jupiter taken from the ground with the Gemini North telescope on Maunakea. Key observations in the study were obtained with the Near Infrared Imager (NIRI), an instrument built for Gemini by the University of Hawai'i Institute for Astronomy more than two decades ago. Image credit: International Gemini Observatory/ NOIRLab/ NSF/ AURA M.H. Wong (UC Berkeley)

COSPAR Member News

New National Scientific Institution Member Reports to COSPAR Available

Reports are now available from:

[Czech Republic 2019](#)

[Slovak Republic 2018-2019](#)

Additional reports will be posted as the 43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly approaches.



COSPAR Member News

Thailand's AstroLab, an Important New Player in SE Asia, to Focus on 4 Essential R&D Topics

[GISTDA](#) (Geo-informatics and Space Technology Development Agency) initiates the Astrodynamics Research Laboratory, or "AstroLab" at Space Krenovation Park, Chonburi

Province, Thailand. The AstroLab is expected to be the complete research and development center on astrodynamics and space technology innovation in Thailand and Southeast Asia region. The AstroLab team (pictured below) focuses on four essential R&D parts, find out more [here](#).



COSPAR Member News

ISPRS

The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS, www.isprs.org) is a non-governmental organization devoted to the development of international cooperation for the advancement of photogrammetry and remote sensing, and their applications. It was founded by Prof. Eduard Doležal as the International Society for Photogrammetry in Vienna, Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy, in 1910. Remote Sensing, a younger “sister” science, focused on acquisition, processing and visualisation of images of the Earth and other space bodies, has become not only one of the topics ISPRS members is working with, but also a part of the Society name. Read an [overview of ISPRS](#).



COSPAR Meeting Update

**43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly--
New Dates:**

28 January-4 February 2021

Sydney, Australia

www.cospar2021.org



COSPAR Meetings

**Keep your Calendar Marked for
COSPAR Athens: 16-24 July 2022**

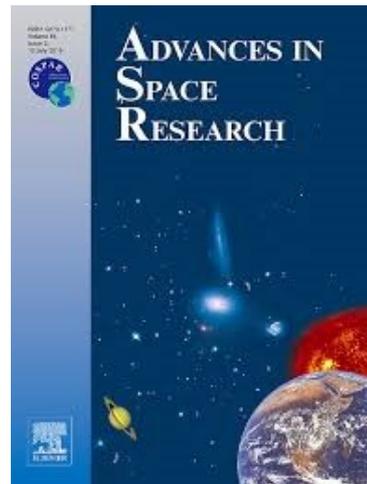
The Academy of Athens is essentially the Greek National Academy of Sciences. Its name implies a continuation of Plato's Academy, as depicted in Raphael's 'The School of Athens' 16th century masterpiece. Now, the Academy of Athens via its Section of Physical Sciences and its National Committee of Space Sciences leads a consortium of scientists within Greek institutions and the diaspora in organizing COSPAR's 44th General Assembly. More information [here](#).

COSPAR Publications

Special Issue of *Advances in Space Research*

Volume 66, Issue 1, 1 July 2020, **Advances in Small Satellites for Space Science**, Guest Editors: Loren C. Chang, Amal Chandran. Preface free to read through May 2021.

Also, ASR's most cited article historically: The Multi-GNSS Experiment (MGEX) of the International GNSS Service (IGS) – Achievements, prospects and challenges is **free to read** through end 2020.



COSPAR Publications

Look out for the **Interim Report** from the Task Group on establishing a Constellation of Small Satellites (TGCSS) in the next issue of *Space Research Today*, August 2020.



On the Radar

NASA Selects Mission to Study Causes of Giant Solar Particle Storms

NASA has selected a new mission to study how the Sun generates and releases giant space weather storms into planetary space. Not only will such information improve understanding of how our solar system works, but it ultimately can help protect astronauts traveling to the Moon and Mars by providing better information on how the Sun's radiation affects the space environment they must travel through.



Jobs & Opportunities

ESA Space Solutions is helping to deal with Covid-19 outbreaks. To respond to the unprecedented effort to contain and mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of initiatives in ESA Business Applications, part of ESA Space Solutions, have been launched or are under preparation. Read [more](#) [here](#).

[Exploring the Moon from a Large European Lander](#): ESA Call for Ideas. Development of [Europe's first ever lunar lander](#) was agreed upon by ESA Member States in 2019 and now ESA is seeking your ideas for science and robotic missions on the Moon. The deadline for submissions is 3 July 2020.

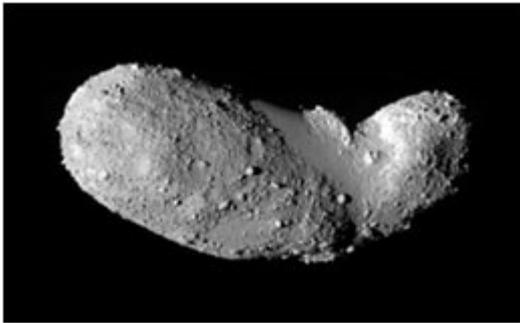
Space Science Quote

“When watching the Earth from over there, one can see the results of human activities, not just a beautiful bluish habitable planet, but because one can see just how habitable it is, with all of its floodlit streets and avenues, and its huge cities. One can see this both at night and in the daytime. And secondly, anyone over there, in orbit, should give, and actually gives, a thought to the fact that they are at an average altitude of 400 km, aboard a space station or a spacecraft that has been manufactured by human mind and human civilization, so one can't help but feel proud of them. One realizes that this planet is their home...One has a natural psychological wish to return to Earth, to their home. When in orbit, one thinks of the whole of the Earth, rather than of one's country, as one's home.” Svetlana Savitskaya (the first woman to carry out Extra Vehicular Activity in space)

Space Science Highlights from the Past



Last month saw the 59th anniversary of the first planetary flyby. Launched in February 1961 by the then Soviet Union, the *Venera 1*, a 643-kg probe, became the first spacecraft to fly past Venus on 19 May at a distance of 100,000 km.



And 10 years ago this month the *Hayabusa* probe became the first successful mission to return an asteroid sample to Earth, from the 25143 Itokawa, pictured left. The JAXA spacecraft was also the first to be designed specifically to land on an asteroid. (Image credit: JAXA)

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