Newsletter 21-12

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: FALL MEETING

Dear Members of the DPS Community:

I am excited to announce that we will hold the second virtual DPS meeting on Oct 3-8, 2021. I thoroughly enjoyed last year’s meeting, and we’re taking the lessons and experience we’ve gained to refine and hone this year's conference. We will bring all the coolest and most cutting-edge planetary science to you wherever you are, and we'll be bringing even more opportunities for scientific discussions and opportunities to connect with your colleagues. Also, we'll augment this year's annual meeting with asynchronously scheduled professional development workshops intended to smooth career transitions and foster new opportunities.

As you can imagine, the decision to go virtual was complex, and we arrived at it after lengthy consideration of the best available information we had at the time of the decision deadline (which was April 22, 2021) and our parent society's strong recommendation to go virtual. We will be posting a set of charts documenting our decision-making process and constraints shortly. In charting this course, our guiding principle has been to think about the values that we hope to achieve with the meeting, and how best to express them in a time of continued uncertainty and worldwide crisis. While the virtual format is different, my heart is lifted by the strength and creativity of our community as we forge this new path to sharing our science and supporting each other.

We greatly appreciate the feedback we received on last year's meeting through our exit survey. The results revealed unsurprisingly that our community is adaptable and adopts new technology readily. The vast majority saw strengths in the virtual format. We are also beginning to explore with AAS the
possibilities for a financially viable hybrid meeting model that makes content equally available to those attending in-person and remotely, for future DPS meetings.

Some truly great things came out of our first virtual meeting: we had more than triple the number of students attending, and we had participants from a much wider array of countries than ever before. By going virtual, we will be saving the carbon equivalent to 3 million airmiles. Moreover, here are a few of the comments we received:

This was probably the most accessible DPS ever.

As a hard-of-hearing person, the transcripts of talks & ability to rewind/pause talks were revolutionary for me.

This is the most science I have ever gotten out of DPS. Is this how non-disabled people feel after a meeting?

I have never asked a question at a conference before. I found the Slack system to be quite liberating and I felt like there was no stopping me.

Also new in the last year is a [fund](https://bit.ly/3ySsEbV) to support underrepresented communities in planetary science to attend the DPS meeting and the annual meeting of the National Society of Black Physicists. The fund has been seeded by an initial contribution from DPS, and it has been great to see that it's already been matched by our members and partners. The DPS will continue to grow the fund, and we thank you for your continued support of it as well as the [Niebur](https://bit.ly/34A17hh) and [Hartmann](https://bit.ly/3fyS9NS) funds.

As travel in the United States slowly begins to resume, I hope that the first trips our members make will include long-delayed visits with their loved ones. If we can better support our members dealing with the COVID crisis either domestically or abroad, please reach out to DPS.Chair@aas.org. Meanwhile, stay safe, and please come join us and support your community on October 3-8, 2021 at the 2nd DPS virtual meeting!
We ask you to add your name to the Community Support Letter that the American Physical Society has made to indicate your support for the National Science Foundation for the Future Act. It takes only a few clicks from this AAS action alert page. The deadline is 1 June!


DPS JUNE VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Postdoctoral Opportunities in National Labs, Research Institutes & Universities: A Community Conversation

Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Time: 2 pm Eastern, 1 pm Central, 12 pm Mountain, 11 am Pacific, 8 am Hawaii, 8 pm CEST (Central European)

Duration: 1 hr

Place: Virtual

Join us for an interactive question and answer session all about postdoc positions. All are welcome! The professional development subcommittee of the DPS has assembled a panel of experts from various institutions and fields and also student moderators for the event. We will cover as many topics as are of interest to the audience, and plan to have a slack channel for asynchronous questions and answers as well. Please note this event is, free, open to all, and you do not need to be a DPS member or registered for the fall DPS meeting to attend. More information and the signup page can be found here: http://bit.ly/DPS_Postdocs [9]. We hope to see you there!

NASA PLANETARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The DPS is a Division of the
The next NASA Planetary Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting will be held, via WebEx, on June 14, 2021 (10 am to 6 pm, Eastern). Full agenda:


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Send submissions to:

Maria Womack, DPS Secretary (dpssec@aas.org [11])

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