

APS Division of Astrophysics Spring 2026 Newsletter

Dear DAP members,

Please see this Spring 2026 DAP newsletter. It will be archived on the [DAP website](#). For questions, suggestions, feedback, please contact the DAP Executive Committee at dap-exec@googlegroups.com.

Note: all times are to be interpreted as **Denver's local time**.

DAP Executive Committee:

Chair: [Rebecca A Surman](#) (04/24–03/25) University of Notre Dame
Chair-Elect: [Scott Dodelson](#) (04/24–03/25) Carnegie Mellon University
Vice Chair: [Javier Garcia](#) (04/23–03/25) NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Past Chair: [Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz](#) (04/24–03/25) University of California, Santa Cruz

Secretary/Treasurer: [Michela Negro](#) (04/23–03/25) Louisiana State University
Deputy Secretary/Treasurer: [Roseanne M Cheng](#) (03/25–03/27) Space Science Institute

Councilor: [Bindu Rani](#) (1/26-12/29) NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Member-at-Large: [Naoko Kurahashi Neilson](#) (04/24–03/26) Drexel University
Member-at-Large: [Keith Bechtol](#) (04/24–03/26) University of Wisconsin - Madison
Member-at-Large: [Julian B Munoz](#) (03/25–03/27) University of Texas at Austin
Member-at-Large: [Sukanya Chakrabarti](#) (03/25–03/27) University of Alabama - Huntsville
Early Career Member-at-Large: [Cyndia Yu](#) (04/24–03/26) University of Chicago
Early Career Member-at-Large: [Philip Mansfield](#) (04/24–03/26) SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Table of Contents

[APS April Meeting 2026](#) (Global Physics Summit)
[Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin Doctoral Dissertation Award in Astrophysics](#)
[DAP Executive Committee Election Results](#)
[DAP April APS Meeting Travel Awards](#) (Global Physics Summit)
[DAP Business Meeting at the April APS Meeting](#) (Global Physics Summit)
[APS DAP Fellows](#)
[APS students engagement](#)
[List of APS Topical Groups of relevance for DAP](#)
[Other Announcements](#)

APS April Meeting 2026 (Global Physics Summit)

The [2026 APS joint March/April Meeting](#) (Global Physics Summit) will be held in Denver, Colorado (and virtually) on March 15-20, 2026. Important deadlines (rely on APS website for any updates):

- Registration Regular rates: January 30 – March 5, 2026.
- Registration **Late** rates: March 6, 2026 – on-site.

The DAP has organized a rich and varied scientific program for the meeting, detailed below. The **DAP Business Meeting and Reception** will be held on **Wed March 18th at 5.30-7 PM**, providing the usual refreshments and opportunities to socialize. We will have refreshments at the **Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin Doctoral Dissertation Award in Astrophysics session**, on **Mon March 16th at 10:30AM-12:18 PM**.

DAP-sponsored Sessions (Scott Dodelson, DAP Program Chair):

Session B

B79. [Invited: Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin Doctoral Dissertation Award in Astrophysics](#)

Session C

C08. [Invited: New Results](#)

C77. [Quantum Enhancement of Gravitational Wave Detectors](#)

C80. [Time Domain and Multi-Messenger Astronomy](#)

C91. [Dark Matter Constraints](#)

Session D

D79. [Invited: From Interstellar Chemistry to Exoplanet Atmosphere: New Frontiers at the intersection of Chemical Physics and Astrophysics](#)

D80. [Dark Matter Astrophysics](#)

D82. [Mini-Symposium: Interdisciplinary Needs to Understand Multi-Messenger Events I](#)

D85. [Gravitational Wave Sources and Populations I](#)

Session G

G79. [Bethe Prize](#)

G80. [Stars, Planets, and the Interstellar Medium](#)

G91. [Pulsars and Neutron Stars](#)

Session H

H79. [Invited Session: High Energy Universe](#)

H80. [Computational Astrophysics](#)

H82. [Mini-Symposium: Interdisciplinary Needs to Understand Multi-Messenger Events II](#)

H91. [Invited Session: Physics of the Cosmos](#)

Session J

J03. [Invited: Precision Measurements with Molecules](#)

J79. [Invited: Bridging the MeV Gap](#)

J80. [Late Universe Cosmology](#)

J91. [Astrophysical Neutrinos](#)

Session L

L76. [Invited: Neutrino Oscillations from Detectors to Telescopes](#)

L79. [Invited: DAP Awards Session](#)

L80. [Black Hole Astrophysics](#)

L91. [Compact Object Mergers](#)

Session P

P76. [Invited: Towards the Origin of Gold](#)

P78. [Invited: Dark Energy](#)

P80. [Cosmic Rays](#)

P85. [Characterization and Calibration of Gravitational Wave Detectors](#)

P91. [Astrophysics with Gravitational Waves I](#)

Session R

R79. [Invited: X-Ray Results: XRISM, IXPE](#)

R80. [Cosmic Microwave Background](#)

R85. [Gravitational Wave Sources and Populations II](#)

R91. [Astrophysics with Gravitational Waves II](#)

Session S

S12. [Invited: Frontiers of Atomic Spectroscopy](#)

S80. [Missions, Instruments, and Surveys](#)

S82. [Nuclear Astrophysics II](#)

Session V

V79. [Invited: Probes Missions: PRIMA and AXIS](#)

V80. [Early Universe Cosmology](#)

V82. [Gamma Ray Astronomy](#)

V85. [Gravitational Wave Sources and Populations III](#)

V87. [Novel Approaches I](#)

Session W

W79. [Invited: DESI Session](#)

2026 Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin Doctoral Dissertation Award in Astrophysics

Please **join us on Monday March 16th at 10:30AM-12:18 PM** for the session devoted to the CPG awardee seminars to hear about their research achievements. The official award ceremony will happen at the DAP Business Meeting.

The 2026 CPG thesis award winner is:

- **Anusha Pai Asnodkar:** *For the dual contributions to the scientific investigation and instrumentation development to advance our knowledge of exoplanets with orbital periods ranging from days to decades.*

The two 2026 CPG thesis award finalists deserving honorable mention are:

- **Isaac Norman Legred:** *For outstanding contributions to our understanding of dense nuclear matter and the astrophysical properties of neutron stars, combining astronomical observations with nuclear theory calculations and advanced numerical modeling.*
- **Mark Ho-Yeuk Cheung:** *For opening new research avenues in three different areas of gravitational-wave astronomy: black hole spectroscopy, gravitational-wave lensing, and searches for high mass ratio binaries in LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA data.*

DAP Executive Committee Election Results

We are pleased to announce the outcome of the recent DAP Executive Committee election.

- Total Eligible: 3262
- Total Ballots Cast: 468
- Percent of Eligible: 14.35%

New members of the committee are:

- **Vice Chair:** Tom MacCarone (Texas Tech)
- **Councilor:** Bindu Rani (NASA GSFC)
- **Early Career Member-at-Large:** Helena Garcia Escudero (UC Irvine)
- **Member-at-Large:** Brenna Mockler (Carnegie Observatories & UC Davis), Justin Vandenbroucke (UW-Madison)

Congratulations to these colleagues, a sincere thank you to all of the individuals who stood for election, willing to serve, and a thank you to all DAP members who voted. The new members will join the DAP executive committee starting at the 2026 March/April APS meeting.

We also thank our outgoing DAP Executive Committee members for their years of service:

- **Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz** (University of California, Santa Cruz) has completed the four year chairline term.
- **Naoko Kurahashi Neilson** (Drexel University) has completed two years as member-at-large.
- **Keith Bechtol** (University of Wisconsin – Madison) has completed two years as member-at-large.
- **Cyndia Yu** (University of Chicago) has completed two years as an early-career member-at-large.
- **Philip Mansfield** (SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory) has completed two years as an early-career member-at-large.

DAP Travel and Caregivers Awards

The DAP offered travel grants to support the participation of graduate and undergraduate students in the 2026 APS Global Physics Summit. The amount of each grant covers travel-related expenses for students who are members of the DAP and who are presenting talks or posters in DAP-sponsored sessions.

We received an excellent set of student and postdoc travel award applications for this year's meeting and were able to fund a total of **32 travel grants**. Additionally, we received and granted **3 Caregiver awards**. Congratulations to all recipients!

Notifications were sent out to recipients, who will also be recognized at the [DAP Business Meeting and reception](#) at the APS Global Summit.

DAP Business Meeting and Reception

The DAP Business Meeting, a.k.a. the Reception and Awards Ceremony, at the 2026 APS Global Physics Summit is scheduled for Wednesday, 18th March, 5:30-7:00 PM. While you enjoy complimentary refreshments the DAP Executive Committee will give brief reports on the DAP budget and initiatives of the past year. The recipient of the Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin Thesis Award will be announced, and the new DAP APS Fellows will be celebrated.

2026 APS DAP Fellows

Selection Committee:

Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz, Michela Negro, Javier Garcia, Julian Munoz, Cyndia Yu

Fellows:

Neelima Sehgal *For pioneering work on the cosmic microwave background, especially for the conceptual development of a next-generation, high-resolution cosmic microwave background observatory.*

M. Coleman Miller *For seminal contributions to understanding neutron stars and black holes, including the first precise and reliable measurement of a pulsar mass and radius via detailed modeling; for pioneering calculations of black hole binary system formation and evolution; and for service to the physics community.*

Giles Novak *For key contributions to instrumentation for far-IR/submillimeter polarimetry, pioneering observations of magnetic fields at the Galactic Center and in star-forming regions, and excellence in mentoring.*

Abigail Vieregg *For transformative contributions in the detection of ultra-high energy (UHE) cosmogenic neutrinos, and providing transformative mentorship to the next generation of leaders in the field.*

Steven Furlanetto *For contributions to theoretical models of the earliest generations of structures in our universe, their impact on cosmic reionization, and strategies to measure their properties, especially the spin-flip transition of neutral hydrogen.*

APS students engagement

We would like to highlight these opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in our division that would like to be more involved in leadership roles in APS:

- **[APS Bridge Program](#)**: The APS Bridge Program creates pathways to physics graduate programs for students from all backgrounds, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to pursue advanced physics education.
- **[Industry Mentoring for Physicists](#)**: The APS Industry Mentoring for Physicists (IMPact) program connects students and early career physicists from any country with industrial physicists worldwide for the purpose of providing career guidance.
- **[Resources for international students and scholars](#)**: Studying physics in the U.S.? Explore essential guides on visas, travel, academic life, and career development all in

one place. Discover resources to help you succeed, stay informed, and connect with the global APS community every step of the way.

- **[Student Ambassador program](#)**: The APS Student Ambassadors program is an exciting leadership opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students worldwide to represent APS at their home institutions and connect those around them with APS resources.
- **[Conference for Undergraduate Women and Gender Minorities \(CU*iP\)](#)** March 14-15, 2026, in Denver, Colorado: A professional conference experience for undergraduate students to build their networks and further their careers in physics.
- **[APS Leadership opportunities](#)**: APS depends on members who share their talents and serve in volunteer roles as leaders, providing guidance on all manners of issues important to the physics community. APS accepts self-nominations year-round from all members for service on APS committees and the Board of Directors.

List of APS Topical Groups of relevance of DAP

- [Plasma Astrophysics](#) (GPAP)
- [Data Science](#) (GDS)
- [Physics Education Research](#) (GPER)
- [Physics of Climate](#) (GPC)
- [Precision Measurement & Fundamental Constants](#) (GPMFC)

Other Announcements (by request¹)

- COSPAR 2026 – 1-9 Aug 2026 ([link to home page](#))
- 54th SLAC Summer School on “Quantum Probes for a Quantum Universe” ([link to homepage](#))
- 2026 CeNAM Frontiers in Nuclear Astrophysics - 18-22 May 2026 ([link to homepage](#))
- AAS-HEAD is soliciting speaker nominations for their [HEAD Frontier Seminar Series](#). Please nominate potential speakers.

¹ If you would like DAP to advertise=se your event in the bi-annual Newsletter (Spring and Fall), please reach out to dap-exec@googlegroups.com