

APS Division of Astrophysics

September 2026 Newsletter

Dear DAP,

Please see the September 2026 DAP newsletter. It will be archived on the [DAP website](#). If you have content you'd like to include in a future newsletter or distribute to DAP membership or if you have any questions, suggestions, feedback, please contact the DAP Executive Committee at dap-exec@googlegroups.com

Note that for any communication or announcement, any DAP member can use the [Engage platform](#) at anytime to post and reach out to the DAP community via e-mail through DAP the daily digest.

Best Regards,

Michela Negro (Secretary / Treasurer) and **Roseanne M. Cheng** (Deputy Secretary / Treasurer) for the DAP Executive Committee

DAP Executive Committee:

Chair: [Scott Dodelson](#) (03/26–03/27) University of Chicago
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Member-at-Large: [Julian B. Munoz](#) (03/25–03/27) University of Texas at Austin
Member-at-Large: [Brenna Mockler](#) (03/26–03/28) Carnegie Observatories
Member-at-Large: [Justin Vandenbroucke](#) (03/26–03/28) University of Wisconsin - Madison
Early Career Member-at-Large: [Cyndia Yu](#) (04/24–03/27) University of Chicago
Early Career Member-at-Large: [Helena Garcia Escudero](#) (03/26–03/28) University of California, Irvine

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APS Global Physics Summit 2027

The 2027 APS Global Summit is the largest physics research conference in the world. It will gather over 14,000 leading scientists, physicists, and students worldwide, offering exhibitors and sponsors unparalleled engagement with the global scientific community.

The in-person [APS Global Physics Summit 2027](#) will take place on **April 11–16, 2027**

At the Georgia World Congress Center, Omni Hotel at Centennial Park and Signia by Hilton, Atlanta, GA. Meeting sessions include particles and fields, astrophysics, gravitational physics, nuclear physics, beams, hadronic physics, and physics education research. The APS DAP is starting to assemble the program of astrophysics sessions and is sponsoring 10 invited sessions this year and 4 mini-symposia (including joint sessions with other divisions and topical working groups both from the March and April meetings).

[Abstract Submission Portal](#) is Open!
Submission deadline is October 22nd

Caregiver and Travel Awards

APS DAP **Caregiver** awards and **Travel awards** are available for DAP members. Applications will open on September 16 and can be made through [this APS portal](#), under Unit-level Prizes and Awards. Submit a new submission, selecting “DAP” under the Category field and selecting one of the two awards that will appear as an option.

Note that Caregiver award can be used to alleviate the expense of the fee for the Global Physics Summit 2027 **childcare** services. Information about the services will be announced soon by APS.

Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin Doctoral Dissertation Award

DAP is soliciting nominations for the DAP Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin Doctoral Dissertation Award in Astrophysics. This award recognizes doctoral thesis research in astrophysics and encourages effective written and oral presentation of research results. The annual award consists of \$1,500 for the recipient, a certificate, meeting registration waiver, and all finalists will receive a travel reimbursement of up to \$750 in order to present their work in an invited session at the APS March-April Meeting.

Deadline: November 01, 2026

Eligibility and application details are [here](#).

APS Honors and DAP Membership

As the DAP Executive Committee, we would like to thank the community for their previous participation in the nomination process for membership and awards. As a result of these efforts, the APS's long tradition of honoring the best and creative minds in our fields continues, ensuring that the APS remains at the forefront of intellectual inquiry and discovery. We are writing to **encourage you to consider nominating candidates for awards, prizes, and fellowships, and to ask that you also encourage others to get involved.**

As DAP members, it is essential to recognize those at work who pose the most profound questions and have a profound impact on our field. At times, we may think that those deserving of recognition have already been recognized; however, many worthy individuals are not because no one has ever nominated them. Please take a moment to consider those individuals who are missing and have made significant contributions, and consider nominating them.

Guided by our core values, APS encourages nominations that **reflect the full range of talent, distinction, and experience in our field, and supports broad canvassing for professionals across diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and expertise.**

DAP Prizes

- [DAP APS Fellow](#)
 - **Next application round: ~ June 2027**
 - Recognizes members who may have made advances in physics through original research and publication, or made significant innovative contributions in the application of physics to science and technology. They may also have made significant contributions to the teaching of physics and the mentoring of early-career scientists, as well as to service and participation in the Society's activities, promoting the advancement of historically marginalized scientists, public promotion of STEM careers, and leadership within the physics community. The selection is conducted by one's professional peers, and newly elected Fellows number no more than 0.5% of Society membership.
- [Hans A. Bethe Prize](#)
 - **Next application round: ~ June 2027**
 - Recognizes outstanding work in theory, experiment or observation in the areas of astrophysics, nuclear physics, nuclear astrophysics, or closely related fields.
- [Edward A. Bouchet Award](#)
 - **Next application round: ~ April 2027**
 - Recognizes a distinguished minoritized physicist who has made significant contributions to physics research and the advancement of underrepresented minority scientists.
- [Maria Goeppert Mayer Award](#)
 - **Next application round: ~ June 2027**
 - Recognizes outstanding achievement by a woman physicist in the early years of her career, and provides opportunities for her to present these

achievements to others through public lectures in the spirit of Maria Goeppert Mayer.

General APS Prizes

- [George E. Valley Jr.](#)
 - **Next application round: ~ May 2027**
 - Recognizes an early-career individual for an outstanding scientific contribution to physics that is deemed to have significant potential for a dramatic impact on the field.
- [Julius Edgar Lilienfeld](#)
 - **Next application round: ~ May 2027**
 - Recognizes outstanding contributions to physics and exceptional skills in lecturing to diverse audiences.
- [APS Medal](#)
 - **Next application round: ~ May 2027**
 - The APS Medal was established to recognize contributions of the highest level that advance our knowledge and understanding of the physical universe in all its facets. It is intended to celebrate scientific inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge.

Additional APS awards can be found on the [APS Prize webpage](#).

Note, only APS members are eligible for [Fellowship](#). In order to ensure a strong and diverse Division of Astrophysics, we ask you to encourage your colleagues to join APS within the DAP unit (at marginal extra cost) if they have not already done so.

DAP Executive Committee Election

Prior to the APS Global Physics Summit 2027, four new officers will be elected to the DAP Executive Committee.

The open positions will be:

1. Vice Chair (4-year term)
2. 2 Members-at-Large (2-year term)
3. Secretary/Treasurer (4-year term: 2 as deputy, 2 as Sec/Treas)
4. 1 Early Career Member-at-Large (2-year term)

The details of the DAP Executive Committee roles and responsibilities are provided in the [bylaws](#).

Nominations: Self-nominations are welcomed and encouraged!

Please submit nominations via this [form](#). The election will occur in November 2026.

Congressional Advocacy for Science Funding

September is a key month in the US federal budgetary process, and we encourage our members to join the DAP EC and chairline as we reach out to our Congress members in support of robust scientific funding for NASA, NSF, and the DOE. Members of DAP EC met with policy experts at APS and AAS to discuss what both institutions have been working on to advocate for Science funding. We learned that it is very important for members to stay alert for APS notices on action. Following through with these helpful APS guides, such as how to engage with the [Office of Management and Budget](#) and [National Science Foundation](#) public comment opportunities, really makes a difference. The [APS Advocacy page](#) has helpful tools to find our Congress members, data that shows the impact of fed cuts, a tutorial on how to get our voice heard, and [one-pagers to share specific to constituents](#) of Alabama, Alaska, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, and West Virginia. There is also a national [one-pager resource](#).

Members of the APS DAP participated in congressional advocacy efforts to highlight the importance of sustained federal investment in science and research. As part of the Maryland advocacy team, DAP members worked together to prepare for meetings with congressional offices, reviewing [APS advocacy](#) materials and identifying key issues relevant to the scientific community.

The Facilities subcommittee of the Department of Energy Office of Science Advisory Committee (DOE SCAC) has been [charged](#) to "review the summary of proposed facilities and upgrades, identify any gaps, and then prioritize the new or upgraded facilities that are most crucial to the needs of the nation for the next ten years (2026-2036)." APS DAP EC is presenting input to DOE SCAC and the opportunity for you to support and [sign here](#).

Upcoming Events (by request)

- [A NICER Legacy: Neutron Stars, Black Holes, and Time Domain Astronomy, Nov 2-4, Annapolis, MD](#)
- [2026 Annual Meeting of the APS Mid-Atlantic Section, Nov 13-15, UMBC](#)
- [Nuclei in the Cosmos XIX, July 2027, Santa Fe, NM](#)