

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



TO: SMD/ Director, Astrophysics Division

RE: Appointment of new members and chair of the Cosmic Origins Program Analysis Group (COPAG) Executive Committee

DATE: November 7, 2016

Background:

According to the COPAG TOR, members of the Executive Committee (EC) have terms lasting three years. The current composition of the EC, is listed in Table 1. Members in blue are rotating off and are proposed to be replaced. In addition, Chris Howk (green) officially resigned as a member of the EC and also needs to be replaced.

Table 1: Current composition of the COPAG EC

Names	Institution	Expertise	Term Started	Term Ends
Paul Scowen	Arizona State U.	UV spectroscopy, instrumentation	Nov 2015	Oct 2018
Daniela Calzetti	U. Mass. Amherst	Star formation in nearby Galaxies, stellar populations	Jan 2014	Dec 2016
Dennis Ebbets	Ball Aerospace	Detectors, S/C Technology	Jan 2014	Dec 2016
James Green	U. Colorado	UV instrumentation, deep surveys	Jan 2014	Dec 2016
Sally Heap	NASA - GSFC	Galactic astronomy, exoplanets, UV instrumentation	Jan 2014	Dec 2016
Chris Howk	Notre Dame	Circumgalactic gas, IGM, UV and Vis	Nov 2015	Oct 2018
Pamela Marcum	NASA - ARC	SOFIA Project Scientist, far-IR astronomy	Nov 2014	Oct 2017
Mary Beth Kaiser	John Hopkins	Visible absolute calibration, sounding rocket PI	Nov 2014	Oct 2017
Joseph Lazio	JPL	Cosmic Dawn research	Nov 2014	Oct 2017

Matthew Greenhouse	NASA - GSFC	Project Scientist for the JWST science near-IR astronomy	Feb 2015	Jan 2018
Suvi Gezari	U. Maryland	Black holes, galactic nuclei in UV/visible and NIR	Nov 2015	Oct 2018
Lee Armus	IPAC, Caltech	ULIRGs, Star formation, ISM in UV/Visible and FIR	Nov 2015	Oct 2018

Call for Nominations:

On September 6, 2016, NASA HQ issued a “Dear Colleague” letter to the U.S. community seeking expressions of interest in joining the COPAG EC. The deadline for nominations to the COPAG EC was on October 7, 2016. Nine qualified applicants responded.

Selection Process:

A nominating committee formed by Susan Neff and Deborah Padgett of the COR Program Office at GSFC, Paul Scowen, the COPAG Chair (Arizona State U), and Mario Perez of NASA HQ met in two telecons to discuss the merits of the applicants and their skills in the context of the COPAG future needs (Kartik Sheth, NASA HQ, was unavailable to participate both times due to other commitments). After deliberations this committee identified five suitable candidates that will complement the existing COPAG EC membership and have important roles to perform in the COPAG activities we have identified for the coming years. There will be no net increase in the COPAG EC membership, remaining at 12.

The following criteria and considerations were adopted for selection of nominees:

1. New members of the COPAG EC should be competent and recognized leaders in Cosmic Origins science and technology fields and be able to lead studies or interest groups in the areas central to this theme;
2. Maintain balance in all the COR areas of expertise (UV, Visible, near-IR, Far-IR, Radio). These areas should be represented at approximately equal levels;
3. Geographic and gender balance is desirable;
4. Support participation and involvement of industry personnel;
5. Institutional balance demands that no more than 2 members from the same institution be on the EC.

Recommendations:

Based on the considerations and criteria described above, the COR Team (HQ and the PO, with concurrence of the COPAG Chair) recommends the following:

1. Replace four members (Daniela Calzetti, Dennis Ebbets, James Green and Sally Heap) who are scheduled to rotate off in December 2016;
2. Since an additional current member (Chris Howk) resigned due to other commitments, we recommend an extra individual to be appointed now to the COPAG EC.

We note that according to previous guidelines, no individuals with a NASA related affiliation (NASA centers and JPL) were considered as suitable applicants this time around. This effort in recruiting university scientists was a commitment made two years ago which was enforced during this recruitment cycle. These actions and recommendation have the full concurrence of the current COPAG chair, Paul Scowen.

Table 2: Recommended new members of the COPAG for the term 2016-2019

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Paul Lightsey	Ball Aerospace	HST instruments, Spitzer, chief engineer at Ball for JWST, WFIRST, system engineering
Thomas Megeath	U. Toledo	Star and planet formation, IMF, low-mass stars, IRAC team Herschel Key project PI, WISE, HST.
John O'Meara	Saint Michael College	IGM and CGM, HST for UVOIR (all), Cosmic Origins lead for LUVOIR, active researcher.
Claudia Scarlatta	U. Minnesota	Galaxy formation and evolution, cosmic reionization, mostly UV, HST, Spitzer.
Sarah Tuttle	U. Washington	UV and Visible hardware, balloon, Cubesat, galaxy formation and evolution. Experience in industry.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY: The recommended composition of the COPAG EC will be the following.

Table 3: Final recommended composition of the COPAG EC (in green are new members).

Name	Affiliation	Scientific Expertise	Wavelength Expertise	Term Expiration Date
Paul Scowen, Chair	Arizona State U.	Instrumentation, Spectrographs	UV	October 2018
Pamela Marcum	ARC	Star formation, galaxy cluster, galactic environments	UV, Visible, FIR	October 2017
Mary Beth Kaiser	JHU	Instrumentation, Sub-orbital payloads	UV	October 2017
Joseph Lazio	JPL	Galactic, ISM, pulsars instrumentation	FIR, Radio	October 2017
Matthew Greenhouse	GSFC	ISM, metallicity, stars, instrumentation	IR	January 2018

Suvi Gezari	U. Maryland	Black holes, galactic nuclei,	UV, Optical, IR	October 2018
Lee Armus	Caltech	ULIRGs, Star formation, ISM	UV, Optical, IR, FIR	October 2018
Paul Lightsey	Ball Aerospace	HST instrumentation, Spitzer, JWST, system engineering	UV, Optical, IR	October 2019
Thomas Megeath	U. Toledo	Low mass stars, planet formation, IMF,	UV, Optical, FIR	October 2019
John O'Meara	Saint Michael College	IGM, CGM, HST spectroscopy	UV, Visible, NIR	October 2019
Claudia Scarlatta	U. Minnesota	Galaxy evolution, reionization, HST, Spitzer	UV, Visible, NIR	October 2019
Sarah Tuttle	U. Washington	UV/Visible balloon, Cubesat, galaxy formation and evolution.	UV, Optical	October 2019

Recommended:

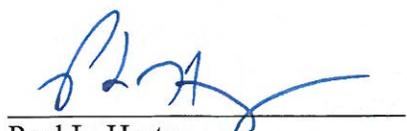

 Mario Perez, COR PS
 Astrophysics Division

11/7/2016
 Date

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 Kartik Sheth, Deputy COR PS
 Astrophysics Division

Nov 7 '16
 Date

Approved:


 Paul L. Hertz
 Astrophysics Division Director
 Science Mission Directorate

11/7/16
 Date