

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: October 29, 2015

Background:

According to the COPAG TOR, members of the Executive Committee (EC) have terms lasting three years. The current composition of the EC, including the last four members added at the end of calendar 2014 and beginning of 2015, is listed in Table 1. Members in blue are rotating off and are proposed to be replaced.

Table 1: Current composition of the COPAG EC

Names	Institution	Expertise	Term Started	Term Ends
Ken Sembach-Chair	STScI	UV, ISM, Galaxies	Jun 2013	Mar 2016
Lynne Hillenbrand	Caltech	Near-IR, YSOs	Oct 2011	Oct 2015
Daniela Calzetti	U. Mass. Amherst	Star formation in Galaxies	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	Jan 2014	Dec 2016
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

Call for Nominations:

On July 22, 2015, NASA HQ issued a “Dear Colleague” letter to the U.S. community seeking expressions of interest in joining the COPAG EC. Thirteen qualified applicants responded. The deadline for nominations to the COPAG EC was on September 4, 2015.

Selection Process:

A nominating committee formed by Susan Neff and Deborah Padgett of the COR Program Office at GSFC, Ken Sembach, the COPAG Chair (STScI), Kartik Sheth and Mario Perez of NASA HQ, met on September 11, 2015. After deliberations this committee identified three 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 a net increase in the COPAG EC membership from 10 to 12 members.

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 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. 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 the two members (Lynne Hillenbrand and Ken Sembach) who are scheduled to rotate off in October 2015, and March 2016, respectively;
2. Since one of the members rotating off is the COPAG chair, following best practices, appointment of a current member of the Astrophysics Subcommittee is recommended. Paul Scowen, a newly appointed member of the Astrophysics Subcommittee has nominally agreed to assume this community leadership role, if asked.
3. Add three (3) new members (see Table 2) for the terms November 2015 – October 2018. This number of total members will allow 1/3 of the COPAG EC to be replaced each year hence. Additionally this action allows for better and wider programmatic balance from the Far-IR to the UV (including ground-based platforms).

We note that according to the new emphasis in the “Dear Colleague” letter, only one the 13 qualified candidates in the pool this time originated from a NASA Center; all others belonged to academic institutions. This effort in recruiting university scientists was a commitment made

after last year recruitment cycle. These actions and recommendation have the full concurrence of the current and outgoing COPAG chair, Ken Sembach.

Table 2: Recommended new members of the COPAG for the term 2015-2018


Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Suvi Gezari	U. Maryland	Galactic expertise, GALEX, Pan-STARRS1, LSST, TESS, WFIRST, "Beyond JWST"
Lee Armus	Caltech	Far-IR expertise; Spitzer, ApJ Scientific Editor, Chandra, SOFIA, HST
J. Christopher Howk	U. Notre Dame	IGM and star formation connection; HST, FUSE, GALEX, Keck

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY: The recommended composition of the COPAG EC will have a net gain of two members plus the appointment of a new COPAG Chair.

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
Daniela Calzetti	U. Mass. Amherst	Star formation, dust, nearby galaxies	UV, Optical, FIR	December 2016
Dennis Ebbets	Ball Aerospace	Stars, Detectors, S/C technology	UV, Optical	December 2016
James Green	U. Colorado	Instrumentation	UV	December 2016
Sally Heap	GSFC	Stars, PNe, metallicity	UV, Optical	December 2016
Pamela Marcum	ARC	Star formation, galaxy cluster, galactic environments	Optical, 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
J. Christopher Howk	U. Notre Dame	Dust, Galaxy halo / disk	UV/Optical/IR	October 2018

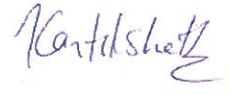
Recommended:



Mario Perez, COR PS
Astrophysics Division

11/12/15

Date

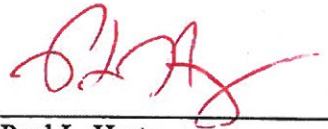


Kartik Sheth, Deputy COR PS
Astrophysics Division

Nov 12, 2015

Date

Approved:



Paul L. Hertz
Astrophysics Division Director
Science Mission Directorate

11/10/15

Date