



ASTROPHYSICS WITH EQUITY
SURMOUNTING OBSTACLES TO MEMBERSHIP
SCIENCE ANALYSIS GROUP

AWESOM Science Analysis Group meeting

22 September 2023

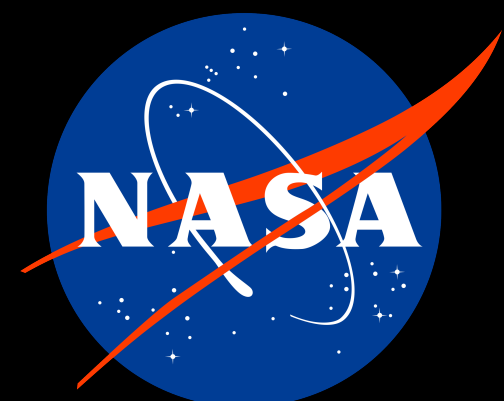
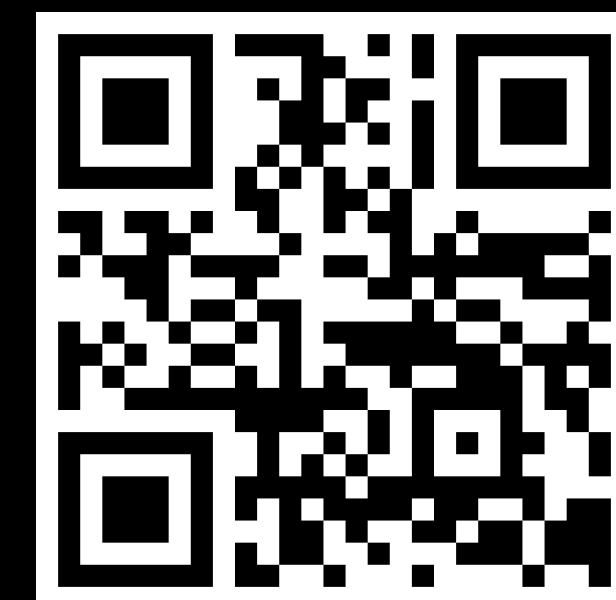
11am-12pm EDT

<https://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/sags/awesom.php>

For notes see [dartgo.org/awesom meeting notes](http://dartgo.org/awesom_meeting_notes)

Sign up form

dartgo.org/awesom





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Co-chairs



Vallia Antoniou
(Texas Tech)



Ryan Hickox
(Dartmouth College)



Christian Soto
(STScI)



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With these goals and challenges in mind, we propose for a Science Analysis Group (SAG) to undertake a **careful study of how to expand the range of institutions and backgrounds for members of the community contributing to NASA astrophysics.**

The goal of this SAG is to analyze how existing NASA programs and potential new initiatives can **increase engagement with research and training programs, and to make available opportunities clearer, more consistent, and easier to access.**



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Timeline:

September 2023: Initial organization meetings, outreach to members, establishment of working groups

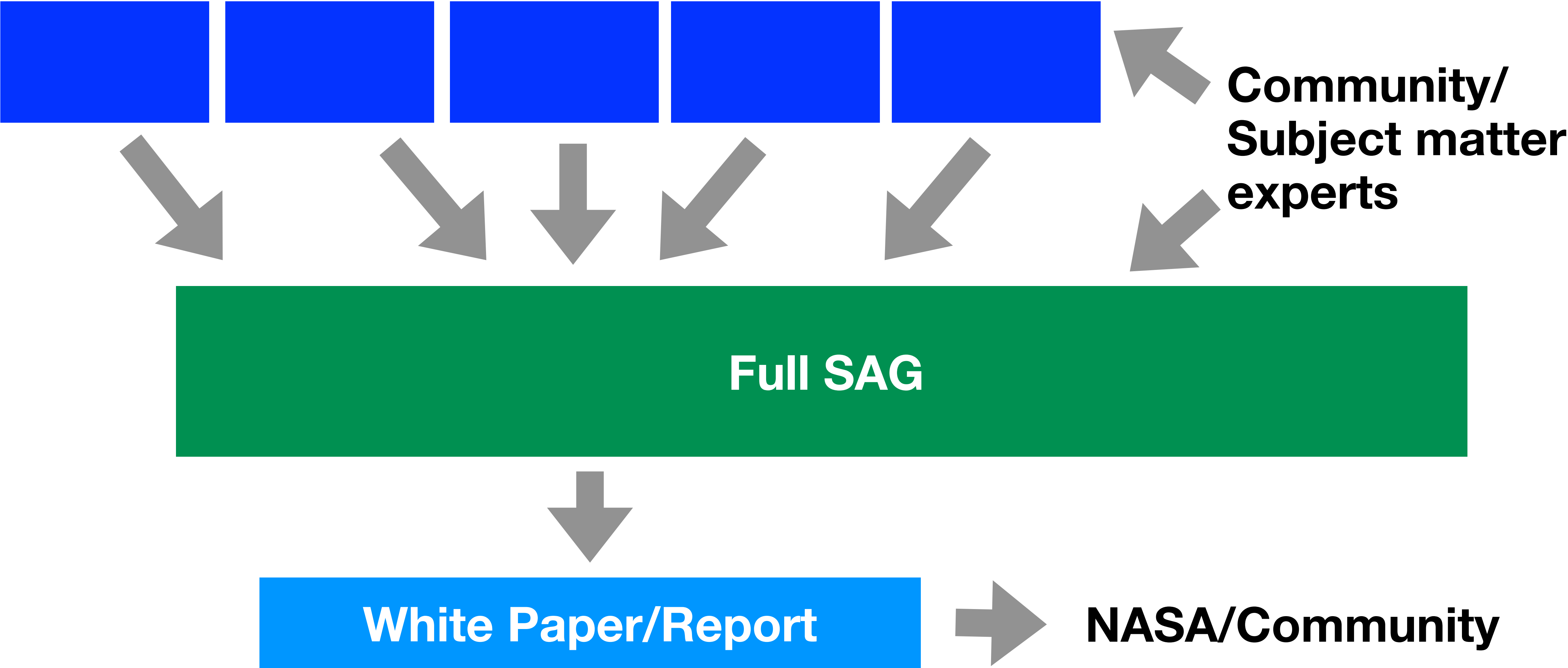
Fall 2023: Working group meetings, research, and analysis

Winter 2024: Working groups present findings / SAG discussion

Spring/Summer 2024: Completion of SAG report

SAG structure

Working groups



Working groups

dartgo.org/awesom_wg_sheet

1. Overview of the landscape of astrophysics at MSIs, CCs, PUIs, etc.
Co-Chair(s): ?
2. Overview of existing/ongoing NASA initiatives
Co-Chair(s): ?
3. Research projects/funding opportunities at MSIs, CCs, PUIs, etc.
Co-Chair(s): Ryan Hickox [could do another WG]
4. Student training programs (w/ bridge programs)
Co-Chair(s): Christian Soto [could do another WG]
5. DEI practices in NASA science (e.g., in selection and recruitment)
Co-Chair(s): Galen Bergsten

Working groups

dartgo.org/awesom_wg_sheet

AWESOM working group ideas		
Per SAG meeting 8 September 2023		
Working group concept	Interested in joining WG?	Comments
Overview of existing/ongoing NASA initiatives	Shawn D-G, Galen Bergsten, Joineé Taylor, Milo Docher, Raquel Martinez	e.g., SMD bridge program, Inclusion Plans, Cosmic Explorers Students SIG, ExoExplorers
Research projects/funding opportunities at MSIs, CCs, etc.	Ryan Hickox, Swaraj Sagar Pradhan, Justin Finke, Betsy Mills, Marvin Jones	Open access data [proprietary periods] / open access publications (non-US citizens) / SMD bridge program
Student training programs (w/ bridge programs)	Christian Soto, Shawn D-G, Wolfgang Zober, MaggieBeth Turcotte, Betsy Mills, Swaraj Sagar Pradhan, Joineé Taylor, Raquel Martinez	E.g., post-bac programs, first-year grad research scholarships / SMD bridge program / REU, access to conferences, engage with Cosmic Explorers Students SIG? facilitate students to transfer from e.g., bridge programs to PhD programs
DEI practices in NASA astrophysics (e.g., selection and recruitment)	Shawn D-G, Galen Bergsten, Vallia Antoniou, Wolfgang Zober, MaggieBeth Turcotte, Swaraj Sagar Pradhan, Milo Docher, Marvin Jones, Raquel Martinez	NASA could do more in assessing inclusion plans - discussing what could be asked for regarding funding, team composition, etc. - note that some states (e.g., Texas) cannot maintain DEI offices. Different kinds of missions have different challenges (flagships vs. competed missions). What about retention,
Overview of the landscape of astrophysics at MSI, CCs, PUIs, etc.	Ryan Hickox, Vallia Antoniou, Marvin Jones	NASA MSI Exchange tool lists some universities as MSIs even if the astro/physics departments are really PWIs

Recruitment/Communication

We need:

- (1) SAG and/or WG members (and WG co-chairs)
- (2) Subject matter experts



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Next full SAG meeting:

Fri 6 October 2023 4pm EDT

Action items:

- *Ryan:* coordinate with WG co-chairs
- *All:* Respond to request re: WG meeting availability (~bi-weekly)
- *All:* Recruit WG members/ideas for subject matter experts