



## Event 1: What is a Decadal and Why It's Important

September 2, 2021

### Speaker Bios

- **Colleen Hartman** is the Space Studies Board Director and a physicist who comes to the Academies after four decades in engineering and space science at NASA.
- **Dr. Ashlee Wilkins** serves on the professional staff of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee (Majority) of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Her work includes supporting the oversight, policy, and legislative activities of the Subcommittee and Committee within the full scope of the NASA, commercial space, and aviation R&D jurisdiction. Prior to working for Congress, Dr. Wilkins was the seventh John N. Bahcall Public Policy Fellow of the American Astronomical Society (AAS).
- **Craig Kundrot** is the Biological and Physical Sciences Division Director in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters. He is responsible for providing strategic direction for the division and overseeing the planning and execution of its two-pronged mission of pioneering scientific discovery and enabling human spaceflight exploration.
- **Robert J. Ferl** is a professor at the University of Florida and a co-chair for the Decadal on Biological and Physical Science Research in Space. Dr. Ferl's research agenda includes analysis of the fundamental biological processes involved in plant adaptations to environments, with an emphasis on the particular environments and opportunities presented by the space exploration life sciences. He is an expert in the area of plant gene responses and adaptations to environmental stresses and the signal transduction processes that control environmental responses.