

Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics Fall Meeting

September 22-24, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

NAS Building, Board Room, 2101 Constitution Ave NW Washington, DC

ALL TIMES IN US EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME (UTC-4:00)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

OPEN SESSION

Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/event/6188375>

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 11:15 AM | NASA Astrophysics Update
<i>(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion)</i> | Dr. Shawn Domagal-Goldman
Astrophysics Division Director
NASA-SMD |
| 12:00 PM | NSF Astronomy Section Update
<i>(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion)</i> | Dr. Chris Smith
Astronomy Section Head
NSF |
| 12:45 PM | <i>Working Lunch for Members, Speakers, and Invited Guests</i> | |
| 1:45 PM | DOE Cosmic Frontier Update
<i>(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion)</i> | Dr. Kathy Turner
Program Manager
Cosmic Frontier, DOE |
| 2:30 PM | Panel: Update on the Rubin Observatory
Panel Description: Panelists will provide updates on science results, the first data release, alert broker testing, and infrastructure.
<i>(15-minute remarks & 30-minute discussion)</i>
Panelists:
Dr. Sandrine Thomas , Associate Director for Summit Operations
Dr. Yusra AlSayyad , Deputy Manager of Data Management
Dr. Eric Bellm* , Lead for Alert Production Pipeline Group | |
| 3:45 PM | <i>Break (15 minutes)</i> | |

*remote participant

Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics Fall Meeting
September 22-24, 2026

4:00 PM **Update on the Ultraviolet Explorer (UVEX) Mission** **Dr. Fiona Harrison***
(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion) Harold A. Rosen Professor of Physics
Caltech

4:45 PM *Break into Closed Session*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

OPEN SESSION

Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/event/6188379>

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

10:00 AM **DOE Genesis Mission: Overview & Science Cases** **Dr. Hal Finkel***
(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion) Assoc. Director
Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research, DOE Office of Science

10:45 AM **Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) Update** **Dr. James Ira Thorpe**
(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion) LISA Project Scientist
NASA/GSFC

11:30 AM *Break (15 minutes)*

11:45 AM **Closing the distance between insight and impact:
an overview of NSF X-Labs Initiative** **Dr. Adam Russell**
(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion) NSF X-Labs Co-Lead
Program Director, NSF/TIP

12:30 PM *Working Lunch for Members, Speakers, and Invited Guests*

1:30 PM **Panel: Joint Discussion with DOE, NASA, and NSF**
Panel Description: Each panel member will lead a discussion on a topic of relevance to all three agencies. NASA will lead a discussion on the astronomy and astrophysics mid-decadal review, DOE will lead discussion on AI in astronomy and astrophysics and the Genesis Mission, and NSF will lead discussion on dark and quiet skies for astronomy.
(20-minutes per topic and 45-minute discussion)
Panelists: **Dr. Shawn Domagal-Goldman, NASA**
 Dr. Chris Smith, NSF
 Dr. Bryan Field, DOE

Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics Fall Meeting September 22-24, 2026

3:15 PM *Break (15 minutes)*

3:30 PM Panel on the *Swift* Boost: Mission Development and Lessons Learned
Panel Description: The panel members will present an overview of the development and operation of the boost mission, including lessons learned.
(3-minute introductions, 30-minute presentation, 20-minute discussion)
Panelists: **Dr. Brad Cenko**, *Swift* Principal Investigator, NASA/GSFC
 Mr. John Van Eepoel, *Swift*LY Deputy Project Manager, NASA/GSFC
 Dr. Kieran Wilson, PI LINK Mission, Katalyst
 Dr. Jamie Kennea, *Swift* Science Operations Lead, Schmidt Sciences

4:30 PM Update from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory Dr. Anthony Beasley*
(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion) Director
 National Radio Astronomy Observatory

5:15 PM *Break into Closed Session (15 minutes)*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

OPEN SESSION

Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/event/6188383>

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

10:30 AM Update from the Cosmic Origins TBD
Program Analysis Group (COPAG)
(20-minute presentation)

10:50 AM Update from the Exoplanet Exploration Dr. Ian Crossfield
Program Analysis Group (ExoPAG) Chair, ExoPAG
(20-minute presentation)

11:10 AM Update from the Physics of the Cosmos Dr. Manel Errando*
Program Analysis Group (PhysPAG) Chair, PhysPAG
(20-minute presentation)

11:30 AM *Break (15 minutes)*

11:45 AM Panel: Joint Discussion with the Program Analysis Groups

Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics Fall Meeting September 22-24, 2026

Panel Description: All panelists will be available for a joint question and answer session with the CAA, including discussion of updates in the context of the Astrophysics Strategic Technology & Research Accelerator (ASTRA) initiative.

(45-minute discussion)

Panelists: **TBD**, COPAG

Dr. Ian Crossfield, Chair, ExoPAG

Dr. Manel Errando*, Chair, PhysPAG

Dr. Jessica Gaskin, Associate Director for Concept and Technology

Development, NASA Astrophysics Division

12:30 PM *Working Lunch for Members, Speakers, and Invited Guests*

1:30 PM **Closing Remarks**
(30-minute presentation)

2:00 PM *Meeting Adjourns*

IMPORTANT NOTES

Presenters:

- Please do not include unpublished data, ITAR-controlled or sensitive information in your presentation.
- A National Academies Board staff member will ask you to sign a form before the meeting allowing us permission to use your likeness and presentation for our livestream video, which will be posted on our Board website after the meeting. Please get in touch with us before the meeting if you have any concerns about this usage.

Members and Presenters:

- Remote access will be provided through Zoom. This will allow you to participate in the meeting even if you can't be physically present.
- Please note that Zoom allows audio and any materials exchanged or viewed during the session to be recorded and shared.
- By participating in this activity, you agree to let your voice, likeness, and any materials you provide be recorded for use and dissemination. This includes any language, format, or media now known or later devised.
- You release the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine from any and all claims, liability, or damages arising from any such use. If you disagree, please do not join the session.

Members of the General Public:

- Remote access will be provided through a live stream on Vimeo. This will also be publicly available and posted on the Board website. You do not need to register.

Thank you all for your cooperation, and we look forward to a successful meeting.