



# COSPAR News

November 2020 Issue 6

## Message from the Editors

Virtual meetings have now become the norm, enabling space scientists to exchange ideas and debate from the safety of their own home or office. The COSPAR 2021 Hybrid Assembly is a prime example, offering easier access to more events than when on site, regardless of your time zone. Not only will you be able to attend any given scientific event—and the live Q & A sessions—you'll also be able to access presentations made in events that normally would have been held in parallel during a standard "on-site" Assembly. This access will extend to the end of 2021.

The COSPAR 2021 Hybrid Assembly promises to be a truly global event, now offering 3,497 individual presentations after the renewed Call for Papers. This means there are more than 1,000 hours of scientific content to be delivered across multiple time zones over six days. And presenters who upload their pre-recorded summary 'teaser' before 30 November 2020, accompanied preferably by their full presentation, are eligible for a reduced [Presenters Early Bird registration rate](#).

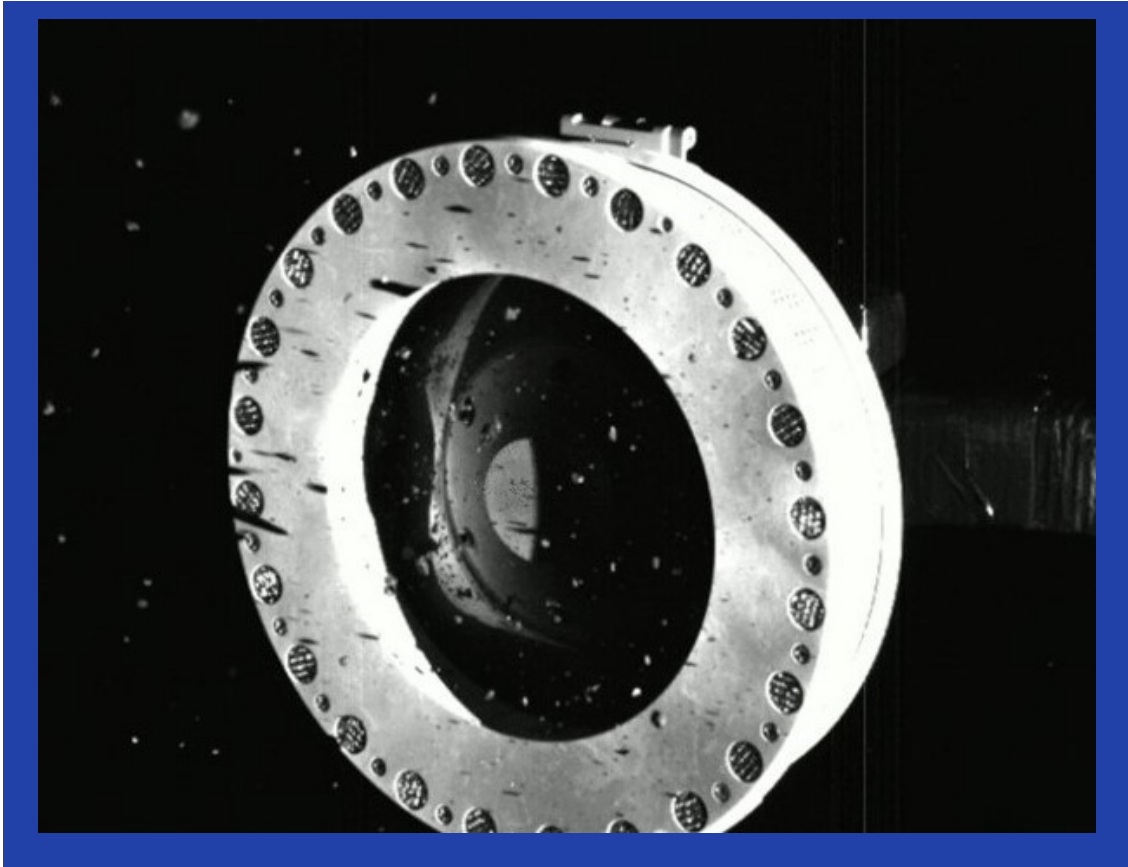
Here at HQ we're looking forward to the [six interdisciplinary lectures](#) that are lined up. In this issue we focus on *Hayabusa 2* (see [On the Radar](#) below) in anticipation of [Hitoshi Kuninaka](#) (ISAS/JAXA)'s update on '[The Status of Hayabusa 2 Asteroid Explorer and Its Results](#)'. (No prizes for guessing what the connection with Australia is)

We are excited you will be part of the first COSPAR Hybrid Assembly. Meanwhile, please take all the necessary measures to stay well.

**Richard Harrison and Leigh Fergus**

## Space Science Snapshot:

NASA's [OSIRIS-REx](#) mission team received images this month confirming the spacecraft has collected more than 2 ounces (60 grams) of asteroid Bennu's surface material--thereby meeting one of its main mission requirements.



(Image credit: NASA)



# 43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly

*Connecting space research for global impact*

## **COSPAR-2021-Hybrid**

**43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly**  
**28 January-4 February 2021, Sydney, Australia**

[www.cospar2021.org](http://www.cospar2021.org)

Please note that as a presenter, you have until 30 November 2020 to upload your pre-recorded summary 'teaser' talk (and, if you are ready, your full presentation) to access the [Presenters Early Bird registration rate](#). Full instructions for [recording and uploading your summary and full-length talk](#) can be found on the LOC website: [www.cospar2021.org](http://www.cospar2021.org)

The deadline for recording and uploading full presentations is 31 December 2020.

For any questions concerning the virtual platform, your presentation or other issues, contact [speaker@cospar2021.org](mailto:speaker@cospar2021.org)



## **Other COSPAR Meetings**

**44th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, 16-24 July 2022, Athens, Greece  
Call for Scientific Event Proposals**

COSPAR Associates and all other readers are invited to submit proposals for scientific events which will comprise the programme for COSPAR 2022. Proposals will be considered from mid-December 2020 by relevant COSPAR Scientific Commissions, Panels and the Programme Committee. If you are interested in proposing a scientific event for the COSPAR 2022 programme, please complete and return the [proposal form](#) by 1 December 2020.

## COSPAR News

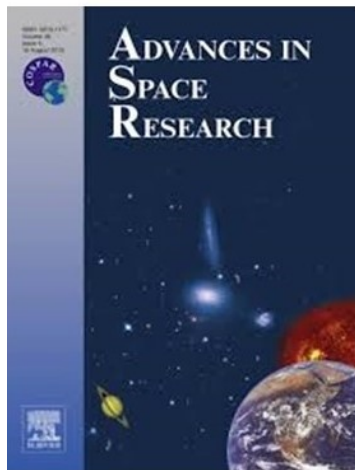
### TGCSS Town Hall Meetings

The COSPAR Task Group on establishing a Constellation of Small Satellites (TGCSS) has already held two of the three planned webinars to explore this concept. The American zone webinar took place on 2 September 2020. Watch the video here. The Asia/Oceania sector was on 29 September 2020 and here is the video of the event. So far the meetings have attracted the participation of 120 interested parties and you can read the Q&A from the sessions on the dedicated TGCSS page on the COSPAR website. The date for the European/ Mid-East/ Africa sector event will be announced soon, those interested in attending should send a message to the COSPAR Secretariat.



## COSPAR Publications

### 2020 Nobel Laureates



COSPAR congratulates the laureates of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics. All have published in *Advances in Space Research (ASR)*, and we invite you to read some of these papers for free: **Reinhard Genzel:** [Soft gamma-ray constraints on a bright flare from the Galactic Center supermassive black hole \(2010\)](#), **Andrea Ghez:** [The galactic center black hole: Clues for the evolution of black holes in galactic nuclei \(1999\)](#).

## COSPAR Publications

### Life Sciences in Space Research (LSSR)

The top five most cited articles published in *LSSR* in 2018-2019 free to read [here](#) until the end of 2020.

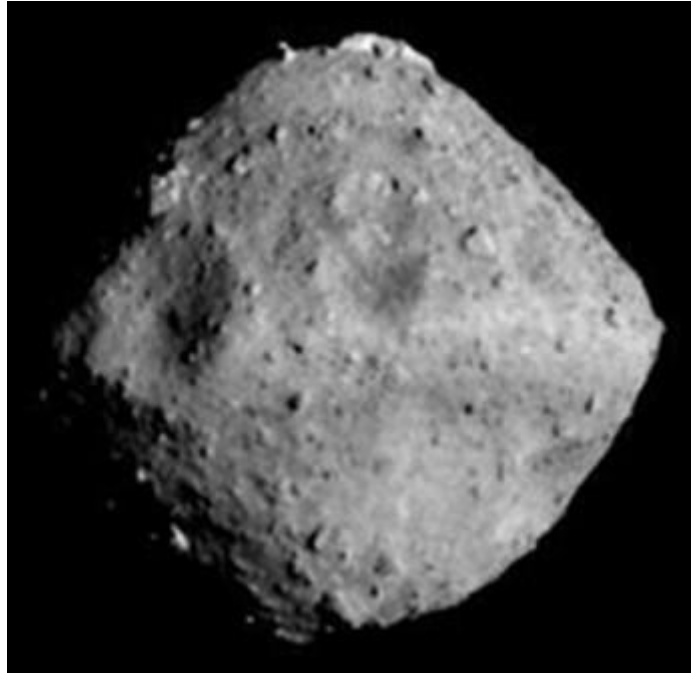


## COSPAR Associated Supporter News

### ZARM



The [Bremen Drop Tower](#) has turned 30! Launched on 28 September 1990, the laboratory of the Center for Applied Space Technology and Microgravity ([ZARM](#)) at the University of Bremen, Germany, is still at full capacity and is heading for the 9000th experiment in weightlessness. Today the Drop Tower is an authority for research under weightlessness and sets the international standard for Earth-based research laboratories in terms of experiment quality and duration.



## On the Radar

### *Hayabusa-2*

The first recovery team for the JAXA-operated asteroid sample return mission *Hayabusa-2* has arrived in Adelaide, Australia. To safeguard against covid-19 they will begin a two-week quarantine before moving to the Woomera Desert, Southern Australia where the capsule of samples from asteroid 162173 Ryugu (pictured above, from a distance of 40 km) is expected in early December. A full update will be given in an interdisciplinary lecture by Hitoshi Kuninaka at the next COSPAR Scientific Assembly. (Image credit: JAXA, University of Tokyo & collaborators)

## On the Radar

### Italian Space Agency to Host

### 2nd Space Economy Leaders' Meeting in 2021

ASI declared itself ready to host the second Space Economy Leader meeting in 2021. The Saudi Space Commission (SSC) organized the first meeting of the Heads of Agency of the G20 countries, hosted by the Saudi Secretariat of the G20. In addition to the space agencies of the G20 countries, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union (EU) took part. Read more.



**Agenzia Spaziale Italiana**

## **On the Radar**

### **NASA's Artemis Accords**

NASA's Artemis Accords have been signed by eight countries, namely Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the USA.



## **On the Radar**

### **Airbus to Bring First Mars Samples to Earth**

Airbus has been selected by the European Space Agency (ESA) as prime contractor for the Mars Sample Return's Earth Return Orbiter (ERO)—the first ever spacecraft to bring samples back to Earth from Mars. Mars Sample Return (MSR) is a joint ESA-NASA campaign and the next step in the exploration of Mars. ERO and the Sample Fetch Rover (SFR) are the two main European elements of MSR, both are set to be designed and built by Airbus. Read more [here](#).

The Airbus logo, featuring the word 'AIRBUS' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, set against a light blue rectangular background.



## Employment / Internship Opportunities

**Microgravity Opportunities Development Officer:** The School of Physical Sciences at the Open University (OU), UK, invites applications for a unique new role as a Microgravity Opportunities Development Officer.

See the new [Employment / Internship Opportunities](#) section, now on the COSPAR website under the Latest News menu, for details. Associates are kindly invited to forward similar announcements to [cosparcom@cosparhq.cnes.fr](mailto:cosparcom@cosparhq.cnes.fr)

## Other Opportunities

**2nd Announcement of Opportunity for the CHEOPS Guest Observers Programme** Information and the proposal submission form for this announcement are available [here](#). Deadline for submissions: 1 December 2020.

## Space Science Quote

"There is something addictive in space that makes you want to go back - like the mountain climbers who want to go back to the Himalayas although their fingers were cut by frostbite." Yi Soyeon, the first Korean in space.

## Space Science Highlights from the Past



The *International Space Station* has been continuously occupied for 20 years now, since the first crew went in November 2000. It has been home to 240 individuals from 19 countries. Quarantine is no longer the norm for crew returning to Earth, although with the current pandemic pre-mission quarantine is much stricter.

It's also been 15 years since Europe launched its first mission to Venus, the *Venus Express* probe.



## Contribute to COSPAR NEWS!

If you have an announcement or item of news for the COSPAR--and wider space--community, please send it to [leigh.fergus@cosparhq.cnes.fr](mailto:leigh.fergus@cosparhq.cnes.fr)

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