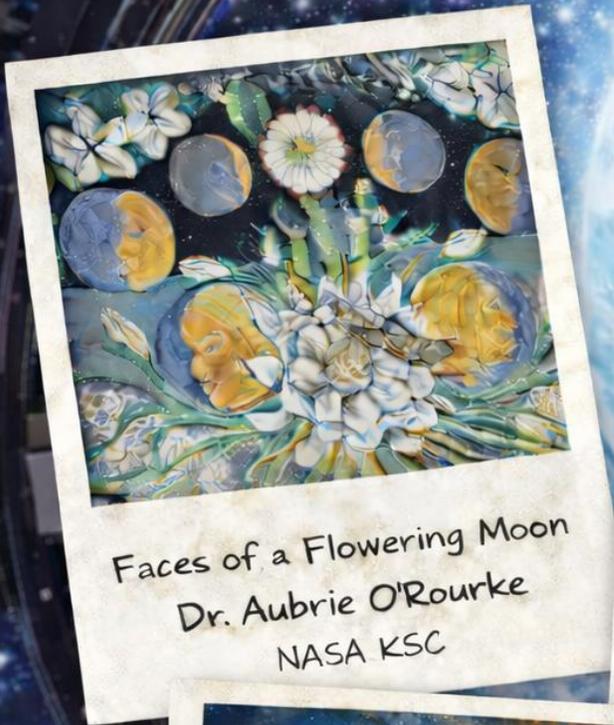


ASGSR Newsletter – January 2026



Faces of a Flowering Moon
Dr. Aubrie O'Rourke
NASA KSC



Exploration Enables Science...
Science Enables More Exploration
Dr. Mona Matar with Dr. Claire Bolding
NASA Glenn



ASGSR 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, JEFFREY SMITH

At ASGSR, Our Science Really Is Space Exploration

Happy new year! I hope everyone had a great Holiday season, spending time with loved ones, and stealing at least a few moments for oneself. Let's bid farewell to 2025, a crazy rollercoaster ride for science and space exploration that was the unprecedented year of unprecedented events. Amid all that, one thing, our annual ASGSR face-to-face conference, convened—almost as normal—shining a bright light on this community's energy, enthusiasm and steadfast commitment to sharing, discussing and advancing gravitational and space research. No. Correction, the 2025 ASGSR meeting was better than normal. I might even say our conference in Phoenix was an unprecedented success; and I'm still energized by the great science, technology, industry and education that we all brought together in one place and pulled off, with passion and participation as high as its ever been.

Now, as we ride high from our recent success, let's welcome-in 2026. Maybe, like me, you're still a little queasy from the rollercoaster ride of last year, and you're hoping this year will feel more like a Monorail cruise through the Magic Kingdom; but let's be honest, that's not gonna happen. This year will be sure to have its moments, but it will also be a critical year for our community and for our message that brings together science and space exploration. We have a new NASA Administrator and new Executive Orders that set urgent, near-term, goals for American leadership in space. This includes human exploration of the Moon, paving the way to set foot on Mars and commercial infusion across all of NASA's missions to build a sustainable and profitable new space economy that will advance space exploration goals as well as bring the benefits of space research and development back, from above, to enrich and improve our daily lives here on Earth.

Our gravitational and space research & development—the work of our Society and the work that our members do every day—is a key part of this new space exploration agenda. This year, while NASA's plans are being put in place, we must share the critical role that science and space research play to enable exploration and commercialization of space. We need to communicate how our science, and the industry and technology development around that science are, in fact, more than just enablers for humanity's future beyond Earth. ***Our Science Really Is Space Exploration***, and we are space explorers.

Gravitational and space research & development is exploring the limits of what can be done in space, uncovering new information and forging new paths into the workings of gravity and spaceflight that our future missions and commercial endeavors can follow. Maybe we can't all be astronauts, yet, but as members of ASGSR we are all exploring space. This year our Society will be stepping up and doing things to make this message clear, and we'll need your help to share your work and amplify the importance of our science that *is* exploration. Watch for more virtual events and collaboration with other like-minded organizations and societies. Volunteer to get involved as we stand up analysis groups and activities in coordination with NASA's Biological and Physical Sciences Division. And, as we look forward to the New Year, no matter what kind of ride it may bring, with your passion, energy and participation, we will hold our 2026 ASGSR annual conference in the Washington D.C. where, together, I know we will make it an unprecedented success!

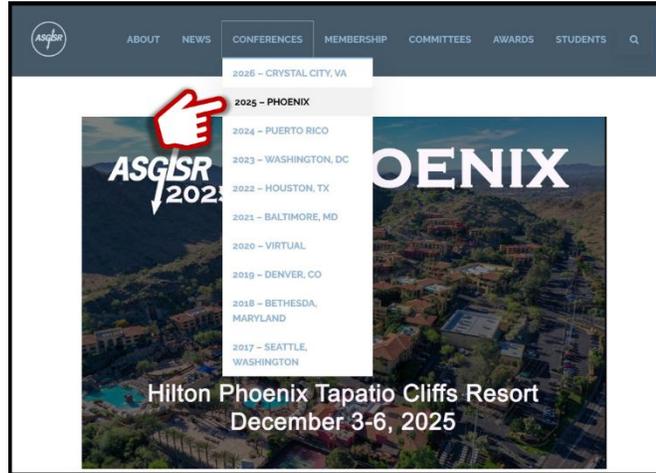


A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ELLEN GERTSEN

We had a great conference last month. Over 700 people made it, despite all of the last-minute drama with the government shutdown and general uncertainty this past year. I'd like to thank everyone for coming. We had lots of energy and excitement as people were happy just to be together to talk about the future of research in microgravity.

In the next few weeks, look for a downloadable PDF of the full conference program, more meeting statistics and photos from our 2025 meeting at the [2025-PHOENIX](https://asgsr.org/asgsr-2025-phoenix) link on our ASGSR website <<https://asgsr.org/asgsr-2025-phoenix>>.

We also want to thank all of our sponsors at the conference. We couldn't have done it without you!



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT, JENNIFER BARRILA

Coming out of our Phoenix meeting, the energy across ASGSR was palpable. The conference was full of great conversations and new collaborations, and I could really feel everyone's shared excitement for the future of space exploration. Being part of those conversations was a great reminder of how special our community is. Seeing



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so many people come together so productively after such a challenging year left me optimistic about what we can keep building together moving forward.

As we look toward 2026, it's an exciting time for our community with the Artemis program gearing up to take humans (and science!) around the moon this spring! I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as your President-Elect and to work alongside Jeff, Ellen, Mike, and the rest of our board to help support the work you're all doing - by advocating for your science and creating new opportunities to connect across disciplines.

PRESIDENT-ELECT AND INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS

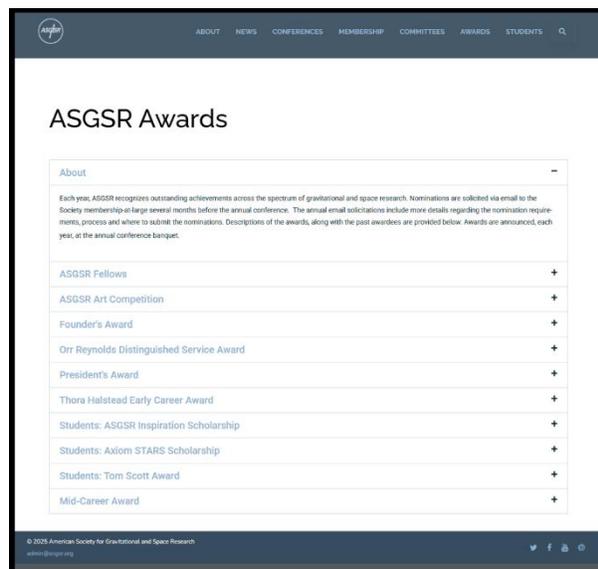
Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Barrila as President-elect and the following elected Board members: Dr. Sylvain Costes, Dr. Bruce Link, Dr. Rafael Loureiro, and Dr. Davide Marotta. Each will serve a three-year term.

2025 CONFERENCE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The ASGSR Website has been updated to recognize all the recipients of awards and recognition at our meeting in Phoenix. Please visit our [ASGSR Awards](http://asgsr.org/awards/) page for a full listing at [<http://asgsr.org/awards/>](http://asgsr.org/awards/).

SAVE THE DATE FOR ASGSR 2026!

The 42nd ASGSR Annual Meeting will take place at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington Virginia from December 2-5, 2026. Dr. Michael Pecaut will be chairing the Meeting Program Committee. Watch this space to learn how to participate in shaping the content for the annual conference.



LOOKING TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

Learn more about our ASGSR Committees on our website at [Committees – ASGSR](https://asgsr.org/committees/) [<https://asgsr.org/committees/>](https://asgsr.org/committees/). Fill out the Committee Interest Form and get involved!



This Newsletter and past news, events and Newsletters can be found on our website under the News tab at [<https://asgsr.org/news/>](https://asgsr.org/news/)