



ASGSR July Newsletter

Celebrating research, community, and the future of exploration



1. Message from Leadership

We're less than five months away from coming together in Crystal City, Virginia, December 2-5, for our 42nd annual ASGSR conference. And—already—it looks like this year's meeting is going to be one of our best!

We are in a great location at the Gateway Marriott, close to Reagan National Airport, within walking distance to lots of restaurants and shopping, and just a short metro ride to the National Mall. Details for preconference workshops, special tours, and opportunities to visit with Congressional representatives are being finalized and will be posted to the [conference website](#) soon.

And who's planning to attend? Just about everyone! ASGSR has already received over 400 abstracts, and we're still counting. A call for late-breaking abstracts was issued on July 2nd, and you still have until August 1st to submit [here](#).

Our [2026 Sponsor/Exhibitor package](#) was also released last month, and we're already welcoming new and returning sponsors as we begin to fill our exhibit hall. There's much more to come, so please watch for news, announcements, and additional opportunities coming to you via email, social media, and postings on our conference website.

We have a great program planned this year, with much to share and much to do. Now, ALL WE NEED IS YOU. The conference registration portal is now open, so [register for ASGSR 2026](#) today and take advantage of the early bird rates before prices go up. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

2. Conference Planning

Abstract Submissions: Abstracts submitted through the initial call are actively being reviewed. Notification of abstract acceptance and travel award decisions will be sent no earlier than August 1, 2026. Missed the deadline or have new results to share? The call for late-breaking abstracts is now open through August 1, 2026, and the call for Middle and High School abstracts is now open through September 1, 2026. Complete submission guidelines, formatting instructions, and additional details are available on the ASGSR website [here](#).

Preliminary Agenda: The preliminary agenda for the 2026 ASGSR Annual Meeting is now available. Attendees can review the tentative schedule of scientific sessions, networking events, committee meetings, and conference activities to begin planning their meeting experience. The agenda is subject to change as additional details are finalized. View the preliminary agenda [here](#).



Call for Sponsors and Exhibitors: We are actively seeking organizations to sponsor or exhibit at the Annual Meeting. Our prospectus has been updated to reflect several new opportunities this year, including additional sponsorship tiers and naming rights, time on the conference program, dedicated meeting space, and the opportunity to participate in the student and early career opportunity fair. Many of these opportunities are offered on a first come first serve basis, so visit the meeting sponsorship page [here](#), or reach out to Ellen Gertsen, ASGSR Executive Director, as soon as possible to secure your spot. The deadline to register as a sponsor or exhibitor is September 30, 2026.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES		
★	PREMIER SPONSOR	\$20,000
◆	DIAMOND SPONSOR	\$15,000
★	PLATINUM SPONSOR	\$10,000
★	GOLD SPONSOR	\$5,000
★	SILVER SPONSOR	\$3,500
★	BRONZE SPONSOR	\$2,000
●	EXHIBITOR	\$750

3. News and Special Announcements

NASA Space Biosciences Training: NASA invites applications for the 7th cohort of the Spaceflight Technology, Applications, and Research (STAR) virtual training focused on the science and technology behind biological experiments in space. The course will take place virtually from September 2026 – February 2027 (estimated schedule) with two-hour sessions held weekly. **The deadline to apply is July 31, 2026.**

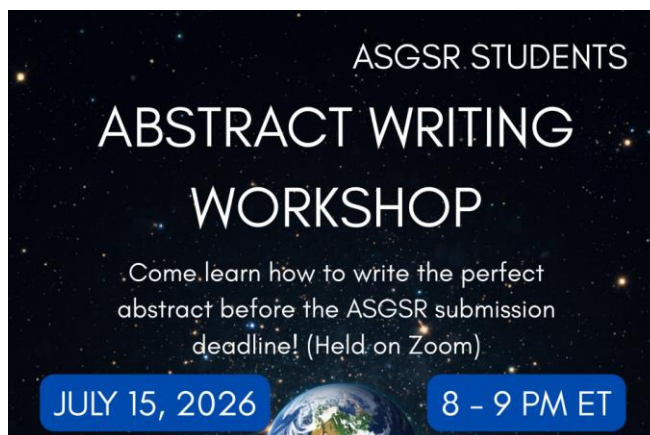
STAR is designed to encourage networking and collaborations in spaceflight technologies, applications, and research across all areas interested in space and biological sciences. This course aims to facilitate the entry of researchers into space biology and preparation for spaceflight experiments using NASA and commercial platforms. The STAR course will cover both fundamental and applied aspects of the field of space biology, as well as practical aspects of preparing for, conducting, and analyzing the results of spaceflight experiments.

You can find the full text of the STAR RFI, including application submission instructions, [here](#). Questions and comments may be submitted via email to the STAR Management Team [here](#).



4. Student Corner

Join us for an interactive abstract writing workshop on July 15th at 8pm ET designed for students in the gravitational and space sciences. Whether you are submitting an abstract to ASGSR for the first time or are looking to sharpen your writing skills, this session will walk you through the anatomy of a strong abstract and common pitfalls to avoid drawing from real examples of accepted submissions from our field. Don't miss out, RSVP [here](#)!



On June 17, 2026, ASGSR students attended DC Spaceball along with Executive Director, Ellen Gertsen, enjoying an evening of networking and community with professionals and students from across the space sector. Events like these help foster connections, encourage collaboration, and strengthen the next generation of space science researchers.



5. New in *Gravitational and Space Research*

Congratulations to Jordan McKaig and Christopher Carr on their recently published research article, "Validation of Gentamicin and Streptomycin Stability for On-Orbit Microbial Monitoring," in Volume 14 of [Gravitational and Space Research](#). The study demonstrates the long-term stability of gentamicin and streptomycin in agar during cold storage, providing important validation for culture-based microbial monitoring during long-duration space missions and supporting NASA's GEARS (Genomic Enumeration of Antibiotic Resistance in Space) project.

6. Community News & Updates

In other space research news, Dr. Álvaro Romero-Calvo, an aerospace engineer and assistant professor at Georgia Tech, is revolutionizing oxygen generation in space. He is using magnets to extract gases from liquids in microgravity. The research was published in Nature Chemistry in 2025, and the core concept is illustrated brilliantly in a TedEd video found [here](#).

This innovative approach could significantly improve life support systems for future space missions by reducing the need for complex, heavy mechanical components and lowering maintenance requirements. Beyond its applications in space, the technology also has promising potential for use here on Earth.

7. Share Your News with ASGSR!

Have news to share with the ASGSR community? We welcome member achievements, awards, publications, outreach activities, lab updates, and other professional news for consideration in future newsletters. Please send submissions to marketing@asgsr.org.

