



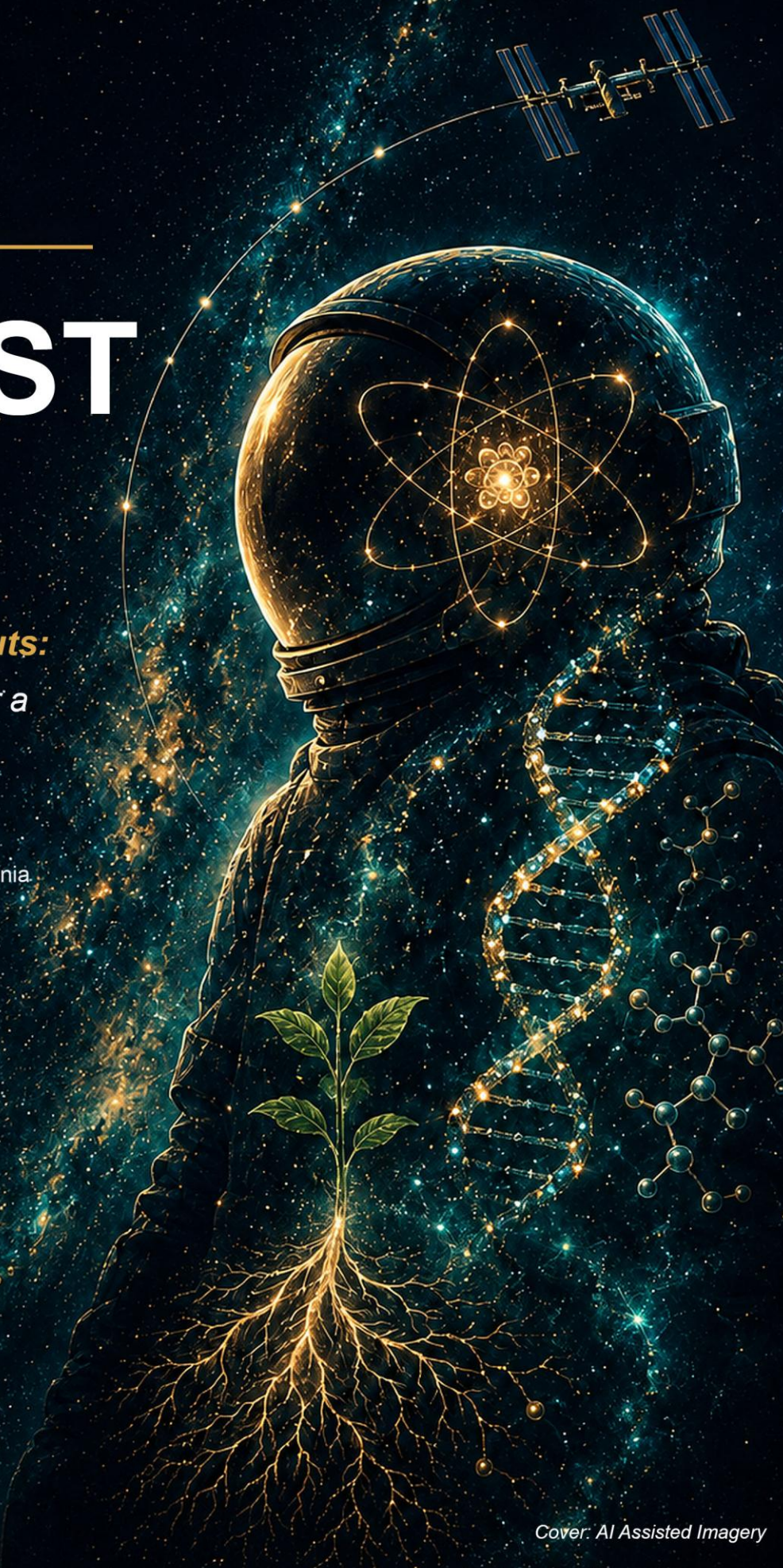
ASGSR
American Society for
Gravitational and Space Research

ASGSR NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

From Atoms to Astronauts:
*Transformative Science for a
New Era of Exploration*

2026 ASGSR ANNUAL MEETING
December 2–5, 2026 • Crystal City, Virginia



Cover: AI Assisted Imagery

1. Message from Leadership

This month, we'd like to give a shout-out to our [Gravitational and Space Research Journal](#) and our hard-working, volunteer Journal [Editorial Board](#), led by Dr. Jamie Foster of the University of Florida. This month, our ASGSR Board has voted to approve an extension to the GSR Journal contract with Paradigm Publishing Services, which provides free, immediate, and unrestricted worldwide online access for the GSR Journal, at a price that allows our Society to offer free submission, and no page charges, for our members.

The GSR Journal fills an important gap for our space research community, offering free, open access publication for original, peer-reviewed research. We are proud to be able to continue offering the Journal to our members, and to anyone, for free, especially as we see potential restrictions emerging for the use of Federal research funds to pay for journal publication (for more on that, see our Message from Leadership in June's ASGSR Newsletter. Please help us keep our GSR Journal free for our members and consider publishing with us.



Over the past few years, the Journal has been steadily increasing in the quality, quantity, and number of downloads for our open access articles. Current GSR Journal Articles and all archived published work can be found [here](#). Submission instructions for authors can be downloaded [here](#), and an on-line tool that guides authors through the GSR Journal submission and review process is provided [here](#), by ScholarOne Manuscripts.

Last, but not least, the GSR Journal is looking for a new cover image for 2027. Original cover art will be selected from the winners of this year's ASGSR Art Competition. Anyone can submit. For more information and to submit your design, go to the ASGSR Art Competition webpage [here](#). Please join us in thanking our dedicated GSR Journal Editorial Board! We look forward to receiving your submissions.

2. Conference Planning

Abstract Submissions: Abstracts submitted through both the initial call and late-breaking call are actively being reviewed. Notification of abstract acceptance and travel award decisions will be sent later this month. The call for Middle and High School abstracts is now open through September 1, 2026. No late submissions will be accepted.



ASGSR Awards: ASGSR is accepting nominations for several professional awards, including the Founder's Award, Orr Reynolds Distinguished Service Award, Mid-Career Award, and Thora Halstead Early Career Award. Eligibility criteria for these awards are available [here](#). Nominations should be submitted through the nomination [portal](#). The deadline to submit nominations for professional awards is **September 10, 2026**. Winners will be recognized during the Annual Meeting's Closing Ceremony on December 5, 2026.

Early Bird Registration and Housing: Early-bird registration is open, and we encourage all attendees to register by September 15, 2026 to lock in the best rates. Hotel rooms at the Crystal Gateway Marriott are still available and can be booked [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 RFI: Help Shape Human Health Research for the Future Moon Mission:

NASA's Human Research Program (HRP) is requesting information from the scientific community to help identify research opportunities that will advance human health and performance during sustained human exploration on the Moon. For more information and instructions on how to respond, view the RFI [here](#). Responses are due by **September 8, 2026**.

Teaching Faculty Opportunity: The University of Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) is conducting a search for a Director & Senior/Master Lecturer of Space Life Sciences. This is a 12-month non-tenure-accruing faculty position. CALS is developing a new undergraduate program in Space Life Sciences, to prepare students for a growing workforce to support sustained human exploration beyond Earth. This new position will support the full development of the program, recruitment of students, and ultimately include course development, teaching, administrative, and advising duties. The full position description and application link can be found [here](#).

4. Student Corner

Applications for ASGSR student awards are now open until October 1st. All students are eligible to apply; ASGSR student membership is encouraged but not required.

Inspiration Scholarship: Apply [here](#).

The ASGSR Inspiration Scholarship is designed to help inspire and motivate deserving students who, through any hardships, may have never considered that they can become the space scientists of the future. High school juniors and seniors attending school in the USA are eligible to apply. Four winners will receive **\$1000 EACH**. Two winners each will be selected from the biological sciences category and the physical sciences category.

ASGSR Student Awards: Apply [here](#).

ASGSR Student Awards are designed to motivate students to get involved with the spaceflight sciences and inspire one another! There are 3 categories of student awards (you may apply to all 3 if interested!) and all winners will receive **\$250 EACH**.

- **Design:** Create the artwork that will be featured on the ASGSR conference t-shirt (1 winner)
- **Creative challenge:** Create a story / video / art piece about space exploration (3 winners)
- **Impact:** Host a space-themed event in your community (4 winners)



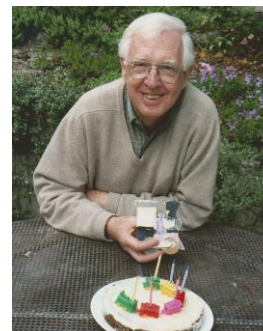
5. New in *Gravitational and Space Research*

The latest journal article published in *Gravitational and Space Research*, “[Enhancing Spaceflight Imaging Data Using Simple Online Automated Plant Phenomics \(SOAPP\)](#),” by Lucas Bauer, Richard Barker, Gilbert Cauthorn, Benjamin Jenkins, and Simon Gilroy, introduces SOAPP, an open-source web tool that automatically measures plant growth characteristics, including foliage size, shape, and color, from uploaded images. Using ArUco tags, SOAPP can also correct for differences in image angle, distance, scale, and color, making plant phenotyping more accessible while supporting NASA’s Transform to Open Science initiative and improving the accuracy of plant research in spaceflight settings.

6. Community News & Updates

In Memoriam: Robert E. Cleland (1932–2026): The American Society for Gravitational and Space Research mourns the loss of Dr. Robert E. Cleland, who passed away peacefully on May 22, 2026, at the age of 94. A distinguished plant physiologist and educator, Bob served on the Governing Board of ASGSR from 1984–1987 and 1990–1993, contributing to the scientific community that helped shape the field of gravitational and space biology.

Bob was internationally recognized for his research on plant growth and auxin physiology, including his foundational work on the acid-growth theory of plant cell expansion. He was also a dedicated teacher and mentor whose curiosity, enthusiasm, good humor, and generosity inspired generations of students and researchers. His contributions to plant biology and gravitational and space biology, as well as his commitment to fostering the next generation of scientists, leave a lasting legacy.



We extend our condolences to Bob's wife, Mary Love “Molly” Cleland, his children, grandchildren, and extended family, and to the many colleagues, students, and friends whose lives he touched.

His full obituary can be found [here](#).

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@asgrr.org.

