



ASGSR NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

SCIENCE IS EVERYWHERE

KEEP ASKING. KEEP TESTING. KEEP EXPLORING.

- Long Program Agenda Released
- Conference Networking Events
- Deadline for Board of Directors Nominations
- Regular Registration Open Through Nov 1, 2026



2026 ASGSR ANNUAL MEETING

December 2–5, 2026

● Crystal City, Virginia



American Society for Gravitational and Space Research

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1. Message from Leadership

We're just two months away from the 42nd ASGSR Annual Meeting at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Crystal City, Virginia! The preliminary agenda is now available on our website, we're finalizing our exhibit hall layout, and we're putting the finishing touches on a variety of special events. We've listened to your feedback from last year's meeting and made adjustments to improve your experience. And you've responded! We have more science presentations, a sold-out exhibit hall, and registration is significantly ahead of last year's pace. We're on track to host one of the largest Annual Meetings in ASGSR history! We look forward to welcoming you for a great week filled with science, networking, collaboration, government insights, industry opportunities, student energy, and, of course, a little fun! Don't miss out! Register for ASGSR 2026 today. Regular registration rates will be closing soon, and we want to see you there!

2. Annual Meeting Planning

Art Contest: Artists are invited to submit their original work for the ASGSR Art Competition held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. This competition celebrates the intersection of art and scientific exploration, showcasing creative works inspired by gravitational and space-related research and is open to all artists attending the meeting. Information on rules and how to submit your artwork can be found [here](#). The deadline to submit artwork is **October 23, 2026**.



Program & Agenda: The ASGSR Annual Meeting agenda is now available on our website to help you start planning your trip! We're finalizing the list of technical and poster session presenters. If you have confirmed your presentation slot, please watch your inbox early next week for an email with your presentation time and location.



Registration and Hotel: Don't forget to register by November 1, 2026, to lock in regular registration rates. Hotel rooms at the Crystal Gateway Marriott are still available, but the block closes on November 1. As a reminder, the hotel is offering all guests the government per diem rate for FY27. Book your room at the ASGSR hotel site [here](#).

Hockey Night: Before the 2026 ASGSR Annual Meeting gets underway, join your fellow attendees for an evening of NHL hockey as the Washington Capitals take on the Vancouver Canucks at 7pm on Tuesday, December 1 at Capital One Arena. Whether you're a longtime hockey fan, or simply looking for a fun way to kick off your ASGSR experience, we look forward to seeing you there! Tickets may be purchased directly from the Washington Capitals [here](#).

3. Advocacy for Our Community

ASGSR Hill Visits: This year's Annual Meeting will be a short distance from Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. All meeting attendees are invited to participate in Capitol Hill Day to visit their local elected officials and advocate for the importance of microgravity research. The visit is being organized by the ASGSR External Affairs Committee and will occur on Tuesday, December 1, prior to the start of the meeting on Wednesday, December 2. Participants will receive a short Congressional Operations briefing on Tuesday morning before they head to Capitol Hill for their meetings.

4. Upcoming Events and Calls to Action

NOAA Call for Subject Matter Experts: NOAA's Office of Space Commerce recently announced the creation of a new subgroup that will develop and maintain essential voluntary consensus standards for payloads that host applied research and commercial products across space biotechnology, biopharmaceuticals, and advanced manufacturing. For more information and to express interest in supporting this effort, visit their website [here](#).

5. Student Corner

Call for Student Support During 2026 Annual Meeting: ASGSR is seeking undergraduate and graduate students to help support the Annual Meeting the day before the meeting begins and throughout the conference. Student supporters serve as friendly faces who help attendees, speakers, and exhibitors have a great meeting experience. In exchange for their time, each supporter will receive a \$200 credit, equivalent to the student daily registration rate. To learn more about the responsibilities and sign up, visit our student information page [here](#).



6. New in *Gravitational and Space Research*

A recently published [article](#) in *Gravitational and Space Research* examines how microbial communities could help transform perchlorate-contaminated Martian regolith into a substrate suitable for growing plants. *Microbial Pre-conditioning of Perchlorate-Bearing Martian Regolith Simulant: Geochemical Evolution Toward a Plant-Compatible Substrate* by L. Kelly, R. Loureiro, K. Harris, K. Lynch, A. Simpson, and D. Richter, reports findings from the Plant Trek project. The study found that microbial pre-conditioning substantially reduced perchlorate levels while promoting nutrient availability and early soil-forming processes. These findings represent an important step toward developing sustainable, in situ food-production systems to support long-term human presence on Mars.

7. Community News & Updates

In Memoriam: Dr. Christopher D. Porada: The ASGSR community mourns the passing of Dr. Christopher D. Porada in June 2026. Dr. Porada was a member of ASGSR and a pioneering researcher in gene and cell therapy and space biology. His NASA-supported research examined the effects of microgravity and galactic cosmic radiation on human hematopoietic and immune systems, contributing to our understanding of the health risks of long-duration spaceflight. Dr. Porada was known for his scientific creativity, generosity, and commitment to advancing human health. He will be deeply missed by colleagues and friends throughout the scientific community. Read more about Dr. Porada and his accomplishments [here](#).



Tenure-Track Faculty Opening: The Ann and H.J. Smead Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences (AES) at the University of Colorado Boulder is accepting applications for a tenure-track faculty position in the Bioastronautics and Human Space Exploration focus area. This research focus may include areas of interest in space habitats and relevant systems engineering, environmental control and life support systems, in situ resource utilization (ISRU), space biology and associated payload engineering, mission integration and operations, human health and performance in aerospace environments, in-space manufacturing, particularly in the areas of biology, pharmaceuticals, materials and infrastructure, and assembly for exploration systems. For more information on the position and application, please visit their job posting [here](#).



8. 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.

