

To: Physics of the Cosmos Community
From: Astrophysics Division of NASA's Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters
Date: September 10, 2014
Subject: Call for Nominations to the Executive Committee of the Physics of the Cosmos Program Analysis Group (PhysPAG)

Dear Colleagues:

The Astrophysics Division of NASA's Science Mission Directorate is pleased to issue this open call for nominations to serve on the Executive Committee of NASA's Physics of the Cosmos Program Analysis Group, or PhysPAG (<http://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/physpag/>). In the coming months, NASA anticipates making at least three new appointments to the PhysPAG Executive Committee, to replace current members who will be rotating off the committee. Appointments will be for a period of three years for each selected candidate.

NASA's Physics of the Cosmos (PCOS) Program addresses the most extreme physical conditions of the universe and the study of the building blocks of the universe at the most basic level: the space, time, matter, and energy that constitute it. The scope of the Physics of the Cosmos Program includes understanding birth and evolution of the universe (dark energy and cosmic microwave background), the conditions of matter in strong gravitational fields and the hot universe (X-rays and Gamma-rays), and the detection and characterization of gravitational waves from space. More information about PCOS can be found at <http://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

The PCOS Program Analysis Group (PhysPAG) is an open, interdisciplinary forum that provides a conduit for community input into the PCOS Program and for conducting analyses in support of science objectives and their implications for planning and prioritization of Program activities. Specific activities of the PhysPAG include:

- Articulate and prioritize the key scientific drivers for Physics of the Cosmos research;
- Evaluate the expected capabilities of potential PCOS missions for achieving the science goals of the Program;
- Evaluate PCOS goals, objectives, investigations, and required measurements on the basis of the widest possible community outreach;
- Articulate and prioritize focus areas for needed mission technologies; and
- Provide recommendations on related activities such as ground-based observing, theory and modeling programs, laboratory astrophysics, suborbital investigations, data archiving, and community engagement.

The PhysPAG is led by an Executive Committee (EC), whose membership is chosen to reflect the broad range of scientific disciplines and interests represented in PCOS. The EC is led by a Chair drawn from the membership of the Astrophysics Subcommittee. The current membership of the PhysPAG EC is listed at <http://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/physpag/>.

Nominations for the PhysPAG Executive Committee should be submitted via E-mail to Rita.M.Sambruna@nasa.gov, the PCOS Program Scientist at NASA Headquarters. Nominations must include both a cover letter and a one-page Curriculum Vitae summarizing the nominee's relevant background, all bounded in a single PDF file. The cover letter should provide a description of the nominee's area of expertise and qualifications for service on the PhysPAG

Executive Committee. Self-nominations are welcome. The deadline for receipt of nominations is **October 1, 2014**, with announcement of selections anticipated by early November 2014.

Nominations will only be accepted by scientists who reside at a U.S. Institution for the period of the service.

We look forward to working with all of our stakeholders to continue a robust and compelling Physics of the Cosmos Program.

Sincerely,

Rita M. Sambruna
Physics of the Cosmos Program Scientist
NASA Headquarters