Exoplanet Exploration Program Analysis Group (ExoPAG) Update

NAC Astrophysics Subcommittee Meeting
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ExoPAG Status

• Next Meeting: ExoPAG-6, 13-14 October 2012, Reno, NV
  – Held in conjunction with the 44th Meeting of the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences
  – Venue chosen to facilitate participation from a different segment of the exoplanet community
  – Agenda (in preparation) to emphasize near-term opportunities/challenges in exoplanetary science

• Ongoing Activities – Science Analysis Groups (SAGs)
  – 1. Debris Disks and Exozodiacal Dust – Work completed; report accepted for publication in PASP.
  – 8. State of Precision RV Measurements for and Exoplanetary Census – Inactive; plan to renew activities with new ExoPAG EC leadership after ExoPAG-6.
After ExoPAG-5 in Jan. 2012, 5 members of the ExoPAG Executive Committee (EC) reached the end of their appointments, including the Chair, Jim Kasting.

- Dave Bennett (Notre Dame)
- Daniel Coulter (JPL)
- Brad Hansen (UCLA)
- Jim Kasting (Penn State) — Chair (will serve one year as ex officio member of EC; see below)
- Bruce Macintosh (LLNL)

Replacement of the Chair was subject to the process of appointing ApS members.

Candidates for the remaining positions on the ExoPAG EC were solicited through an open “Dear Colleague” letter issued Jan. 3, 2012.

- 24 nominees evaluated by Exoplanet Exploration Program Scientist (Hudgins), Program Executive (LaPiana), outgoing ExoPAG Chair (Kasting), and incoming ExoPAG Chair (Gaudi).
- 4 candidates recommended to Astrophysics Division Director.
- Appointments announced mid-March.

New members of the ExoPAG Executive Committee:

- Scott Gaudi (Ohio State) — Chair
- Dave Latham (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA)
- Peter Plavchan (Caltech/NexSci)
- Remi Soummer (Space Telescope Sci. Inst.)
- Jonathan Fortney (U. California, Santa Cruz)

It was also decided that the outgoing ExoPAG Chair would remain on the ExoPAG EC in an ex officio capacity for an additional year to facilitate a smooth transition.