



Department of Astronomy

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10 April 2013

Dr. Wes Huntress, Chair
NASA Advisory Council Science Committee

Dear Wes,

Dr. Paul Hertz, Director of the NASA Astrophysics Division, reported to the NASA Advisory Council's Astrophysics Subcommittee (APS) that a compelling 30-year vision for the future of space astrophysics would be very helpful to NASA. In response, the APS has chartered an Astrophysics Roadmap Team as a task force that is intended to develop and articulate this vision. The team membership is listed below (although one member had to withdraw and a replacement is currently being sought) and the Team Charter is included as a separate attachment. The Roadmap Team has been asked to submit its findings by the end of August 2013 and to have its final report prepared by no later than 16 December 2013.

At the present time, the Roadmap Team has solicited science and technology concepts in the form of abstracts for presentations (see <http://science.nasa.gov/science-committee/subcommittees/nac-astrophysics-subcommittee/astrophysics-roadmap/>), which were due on 25 March, and has received community input in the form of innovative ideas that address current and future scientific and/ technology challenges over the next 30 years. The Roadmap Team held a face-to-face team meeting on 27-28 March at NASA GSFC to discuss and digest this early input. The original intent was to select the best science and technology abstracts for presentation at a town-hall type meeting at Space Telescope Science Institute during the first week of May. Unfortunately this meeting was cancelled on account of NASA's new restrictive travel and conference policies, and, instead, an electronic teleconferencing option is being explored. The Roadmap Team is planning one more team meeting at JPL in early June.

I will be happy to report on further progress of the Roadmap Team whenever you wish.

Sincerely yours, on behalf of the Astrophysics Subcommittee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley M. Peterson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bradley M. Peterson, Chair
NAC Astrophysics Subcommittee

Cc: Paul Hertz
Joan Centrella

Astrophysics Roadmap Team

Chryssa Kouveliotou, NASA MSFC (chair)
Eric Agol, University of Washington
Natalie Batalha, NASA Ames
Misty Bentz, Georgia State University
Neil Cornish, Montana State University
Alan Dressler, Carnegie Observatories
Enectali Figueroa-Feliciano, MIT
Scott Gaudi, Ohio State University
Olivier Guyon, University of Arizona
Dieter Hartmann, Clemson University
Jason Kalirai, Space Telescope Science Institute
Michael Niemann, Cornell University
Feryal Özel, University of Arizona
Chris Reynolds, University of Maryland
Aki Roberge, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Kartik Sheth, National Radio Astronomy Observatory
David Weinberg, Ohio State University
Jonas Zmuidzinas, JPL/Caltech