Background

- **Origin:** Established by the International Council for Science (ICSU) in 1958 as an outgrowth of the International Geophysical Year and the launch of Sputnik 1. COSPAR's first scientific assembly was held in London in 1958.

- **Goals:** To promote international scientific research in space, with emphasis on the exchange of results, information and opinions, and to provide a forum, open to all scientists, for the discussion of problems that may affect scientific space research.

- **Mechanisms:** Cospar addresses its goals by sponsoring scientific assemblies, symposia, topical colloquia, capacity-building workshops and fellowships, the creation of scientific roadmaps, awards and publications.

- **Finances:** COSPAR's income is derived mainly from national contributions (2014 U.S. contribution €23,040 [same as Russia and China]), publication royalties and registration fees. It’s primary expenses are the organization of scientific meetings, support to scientists, publications, office and operating expenses.
The SSB is the U.S. National Committee for COSPAR

NRC appoints U.S. Representative to COSPAR based on SSB nomination

U.S. Representative was automatically one of COSPAR two vice presidents (second vice president appointed by the Soviet Academy of Sciences) until democracy won the day in 1994. Since then, the position has been held by:

- Robert P. Lin (2010-2012)
COSPAR Governance

International Council for Science

COSPAR Council

COSPAR Bureau

COSPAR Scientific Advisory Committee

Advises President on scientific activities (COSPAR’s SSB)

Representatives from national member organizations and international scientific unions

Representatives from member nations and international scientific unions.

Elected officials who oversee business and operations

Vehicles via which scientists participate in COSPAR activities

COSPAR Scientific Commissions and Panels
COSPAR Council and Bureau

**Council**

- COSPAR President
- Representatives of the 46 national member organizations
- Representatives of 13 participating international scientific unions
- Chairs of COSPAR’s 9 scientific commissions
- Chair of the finance committee

**Bureau**

- COSPAR President: Giovanni F. Bignami (Italy)
- COSPAR Vice-Presidents:
  - Wu Ji (China)
  - Vacant (since the death of Robert P. Lin)
- Members:
  - I. S. Batista (Brazil)
  - K.-H. Glassmeier (Germany)
  - A. Jayaraman (India)
  - S. Sasaki (Japan)
  - J.-P. St.-Maurice (Canada)
  - L. Zelenyi * (Russia)

* second and final term
What Does COSPAR Do?

**Well Known**
- Holds the biennial Scientific Assembly. 4,000+ abstracts received in all space-science disciplines. 30+ parallel sessions over a 7-day period, plus interdisciplinary lectures and other plenary presentations.
- Publishes *Advances in Space Research*, a peer-reviewed journal which accepts papers in all space-science disciplines. The impact factor is currently 1.178 and steadily rising. Published twice a month. Will spin-off a life-sciences journal soon. NOTE: ASR is no longer a proceeding journal.
- Publishes *Space Research Today*, a quarterly newsletter.

**Less Well Known**
- Organizes capacity-building workshops for graduate students, postdocs and junior faculty in less-developed spacefaring nations.
- Provides capacity-building fellowships for workshop alumnae.
- Maintains and promotes the international, de facto consensus planetary protection standards.
- Provides a means by which small- and medium-size nations can host a COSPAR event through the off-year symposium initiative.
- Provides a mechanism for the drafting of international space-science roadmaps.
COSPAR Scientific Structure

- SC A—Space Studies of the Earth’s Surface, Meteorology and Climate
- SC B—Space Studies of the Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies
- SC C—Space Studies on the Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets including Reference Atmospheres
- SC D—Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Magnetosphere
- SC E—Astrophysics from Space
- SC F—Life Sciences as Related to Space
- SC G—Materials Sciences in Space
- SC H—Fundamental Physics in Space

Plus 11 special purpose panels devoted to, e.g., Capacity Building, Space Weather, Planetary Protection, Exploration and Exoplanets (New)
Cospar Scientific Assemblies

- 5th—Washington, D.C. USA, 1962
- 14th—Seattle, WA, USA, 1971
- 19th—Philadelphia, PA, USA, 1976
- 29th—Washington, D.C., USA, 1992
- 32nd—Nagoya, Japan, 1998
- 34th—Houston, USA, 2002
- 35th—Paris, France, 2004
- 36th—Beijing, China, 2006
- 37th—Montreal, Canada, 2008
- 38th—Bremen, Germany, 2010
- 39th—Mysore, India, 2012
- 40th—Moscow, Russia, 2-8 August 2014
- 41st—Istanbul, Turkey, 2016
- 42nd—TBD, 2018
COSPAR organizes a highly popular series of capacity-building workshops with various partners in order to convey practical knowledge in areas of interest to COSPAR and to build lasting bridges between scientists. Workshop graduates are eligible to apply for follow-on capacity-building fellowships.

Scheduled workshops include the following:

- Atmospheric Correction of Earth Observation Data, 9/2013, Thailand
- High-Energy Astrophysics, 9/2013, China

Recent workshops include the following:

- Infrared and Submillimetre Astronomy, 10/2012, Argentina
- Global Water Circulation and Climate Change, 9/2012, China
- Land Surface Characterization, 10/2011, Cape Town, South Africa
- Data Analysis of XMM, Chandra, and Suzaku, 7-8/2011, Argentina
- Remote Sensing of Atmospheric Aerosols and Their Impacts, 1/2011, India
Off-Year Symposia

- A new COSPAR initiative to engage small-/mid-size COSPAR member nations, i.e., those without the large facilities necessary to hold a Scientific Assembly
- The first will be held on 11-15 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand
- Symposia will be thematic and will not necessarily engage all parts of COSPAR
- Symposium theme is “Planetary systems of our Sun and other stars and the future of space astronomy
- If 2013 symposium is a success then the next one will be held in 2015
## COSPAR Roadmaps

### Completed
- **Future of Space Astronomy: A Global Road Map for the Next Decades, 2012**
  - Spacebased assets urgently needed to complement ALMA, EELT, SQA, TMT, LSST
  - Strong support for a large X-ray space telescope and enhancement of SPICA
- **Toward a Global Space Exploration Program: A Stepping Stone Approach, 2010**
  - Pascale Ehrenfreund et al.
  - Advocates novel international human exploration program
  - Focused on the theme origins and evolution of the solar system and life
  - Emphasis placed on early phases of program and capacity-building

### Just Initiated
- **Integrated Earth System Science: A Roadmap for 2012-2025, 2014?**
  - Adrian Simmons et al.
  - Designed to foster interdisciplinary research making use of the diverse observations enabled by GEOSS
  - Identify activities that fully exploit observations and models to elucidate functioning and evolution of the Earth system
- **COSPAR-ILWS Space Weather Roadmap, 2014?**
  - Review current space weather capabilities and identify research and development priorities in the near, mid and long term which will provide demonstrated improvements to current information provision to space weather service users.
Thank You