



COSPAR 2026 – Highlighted Special Events & Presidential Welcome



Dear Colleague,

As President of COSPAR, it is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you to the 46th Scientific Assembly, to be held from 1 to 9 August 2026 in the magnificent city of Florence, Italy. Under this year's theme, *"Sustainable space research for the planet,"* and organized in partnership with our Italian hosts, the National Institute of Astrophysics (INAF), this landmark event will bring together the world's leading researchers, scientists, engineers, and students.

For over six decades, COSPAR has served as a unique international platform for peaceful scientific exchange beyond borders. Over the course of nine days, you will engage in cutting-edge scientific sessions, interdisciplinary discussions, and unmatched networking opportunities. Florence, a timeless symbol of curiosity and innovation, provides the perfect inspiring setting to shape the future of space research together.

With the final countdown underway, I warmly encourage you to secure your place. To join thousands of your global peers at the standard rate, **we kindly remind you to finalize your registration by 15 July 2026.**

COSPAR 2026: Featured Special Events

Beyond our core scientific sessions, the Florence Assembly features a curated lineup of high-level roundtables, networking events, and ceremonies. Make sure to add these key highlights to your personal itinerary:

Sunday, 2 August

- **Interdisciplinary Lectures: From Scientific Research to the Space Economy: a Strategic Convergence** | 14:00 - 14:25 (Room: Arsenale Basilica)
 - *Speaker:* Simonetta Di Pippo (SEELab, SDA Bocconi School of Management, Italy).
- **Interdisciplinary Lectures: A New Milestone in Radar Remote Sensing of Earth's Oceans, Land Waters, Cryosphere, and Seafloor** | 14:30 - 14:55 (Room: Arsenale Basilica)
 - *IDL Speaker:* Lee-Lueng Fu (Jet Propulsion Laboratory - JPL, USA).

Monday, 3 August

- **Special Event: Dark and Quiet Sky** | 09:00 - 12:30 (Room: Cavaniglia)
 - *A crucial dialogue between the scientific community and space industry to explore mitigation strategies for satellite constellation interference.*
- **Engineering Innovation Enabling Scientific Research** | 11:00 - 12:30 (Room: Spadolini, Upper 4)
 - *A panel exploring the synergies between science requirements and engineering innovation.*
- **Roundtable of Space Agency Leaders** | 14:00 - 15:00 (Room: Cavaniglia)
 - *Moderated by Presidents Pascale Ehrenfreund (COSPAR) and Gabriella Arrigo (IAF), featuring top leadership from NASA, ESA, ASI, ISRO, JAXA, NSSC, CSA, and UAESA.*
- **COSPAR Opening and Award Ceremony (Part 1)** | 15:00 - 16:30 (Room: Cavaniglia)
- **Poster Opening and Award Ceremony (Part 2)** | 16:30 - 17:30 (Room: Cavaniglia)
- **COSPAR Opening Reception and Award Ceremony (Part 3)** | 19:00 - 20:30 (Outdoor Area, Fortezza da Basso)

Tuesday, 4 August

- **The Role of COSPAR in Advancing Early Careers in the Global Scientific Workforce** | 11:00 - 12:30 (Room: Spadolini Upper 6)

- *Panel and interactive workshop on mentoring, funding, and career development pipelines with experts from SGAC, AIP, AIAA, INAF, and ESA.*
- **Panel on Early Careers and International Space Societies (PECISS) Luncheon Panel** | 12:30 – 14:00 (Room: Spadolini Upper 6)
 - *Addressing the global impacts of federal funding cuts on graduate students and the S&T private sector.*
- **Interdisciplinary Lectures: GAIA Recent Results on our Galaxy** | 14:00 - 14:25 (Room: Arsenale Basilica)
 - *Speaker: Antonella Vallenari (Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica - INAF, Italy).*
- **Interdisciplinary Lectures: Life Support and Greening Space: From Multidisciplinary Research to Sustainability in Extreme Environments** | 14:30 - 14:55 (Room: Arsenale Basilica)
 - *Speaker: Karl H. Hasenstein (Univ. of Louisiana, USA).*
- **ASI Roadmaps for Astrophysics and Solar System Studies** | 19:00 - 20:30 (Room: Teatrino Lorenese)
 - *Presentation of the first 2 years of activities by the Italian Space Agency working groups in developing roadmaps for Astrophysics and Solar System studies.*

Wednesday, 5 August

- **Panel on Humanity's Cross-Disciplinary Exploration Pushing New Frontiers in Space** | 14:00 - 14:55 (Room: Arsenale Basilica)
 - *Moderator: Former NASA astronaut Mae Jemison.*
 - *Panelists: Jingnan Guo (USTC), Shyama Narendranath (ISRO), Jorn Helbert (ESA), Athena Coustenis (CNRS), and Jim Green (former NASA Chief Scientist).*
- **Interdisciplinary Lectures: The James Webb Space Telescope: Expanding Our Cosmic Horizons** | 19:00 - 19:25 (Room: Arsenale Basilica)
 - *Speaker: Roberto Maiolino (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom).*
- **Young Researcher Networking Evening** | 20:00 - 23:30 (Villa Vittoria - near the Congress Center)

Thursday, 6 August

- **COSPAR Committee on Industry Relations Panel Discussion** with International industry experts
 - **Accelerating Innovation to Operational Use** | 14:00 - 15:00 (Room: Teatrino Lorenese)

- **Special Event: Advocacy for Scientific Discovery** | 19:15 – 20:00 (Room: Arsenale Basilica)
 - *Promoting Social and Economic Benefits to Win Public and Political Support. featuring VP Christopher Geiger of Lockheed Martin, COSPAR President Pascale Ehrenfreund and international experts.*

Friday, 7 August

- **Plenary Discussion: Implementation of Disruptive Technologies** | 14:00 – 15:00 (Room: Arsenale Basilica)
 - *Speakers: Dr. Craig Martell (VP & CTO of Lockheed Martin) and Dr. Pascale Ehrenfreund (COSPAR President) on the responsible implementation and validation of AI, Autonomy, and Quantum systems.*

 **Regular Registration Deadline: 15 July 2026**

Don't miss the opportunity to join thousands of your peers and participate in these crucial discussions. Standard registration rates apply only until **15 July 2026**.

👉 Register Now at Standard Rate: <https://cospar2026.org/registration/>

👉 Explore the Full Program: <https://cospar2026.org/programme/>

COSPAR 2026: Secure your spot today!



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