

Message from Program Committee Chair

The abstract submission will open 19 August 2019.

The abstract submission deadline is 14 February 2020.

Dear Colleagues

Changes to Abstract Submission

This note is intended to briefly summarise and explain multiple important changes to the submission of abstracts and organization of the scientific program for the COSPAR 2020 Scientific Assembly in Sydney, Australia.

You may well be aware that since the Pasadena Assembly in 2018 COSPAR's leadership has consulted widely on how COSPAR should evolve and improve. In December 2018 COSPAR's Strategy Workshop heard multiple rationales for evolving the organization of the scientific program for COSPAR's Assemblies. A set of changes were subsequently proposed to and approved by the Program Committee for COSPAR's 2020 Assembly and then by the COSPAR Bureau at their March 2019 meetings. These changes are intended to improve the Scientific Assemblies by specifically increasing equity, diversity, and gender equality, and encouraging younger Associates (both early- and mid-career).

The changes for the COSPAR 2020 Scientific Assembly, which are consistent with the COSPAR Strategic Action Plan for 2019–2023, include:

1. The number of abstracts submitted to a COSPAR Event (sometimes referred to as a session) will determine the Event length, rather than estimates from the last Assembly, so as to improve equity and resource allocation;
2. A person may submit no more than one solicited abstract and two contributed abstracts on which the submitter is to be the lead author; this is intended to increase participation and equity;
3. Talk lengths will be 15 mins (contributed), 20 mins (solicited), and 30 minutes (solicited, at most 1 per half-day); solicited talks are expected to be less than 20% of the total.
4. The aim will be 20% posters, with poster sessions properly linked to and promoted in the oral sessions, perhaps via ~ 1 min / 1 slide oral presentations in a 15/20/30 min oral slot arranged by the MSO, and with amenities that promote participation. These short oral advertisements improved poster acceptance rates and attendance in Pasadena.
5. Most Business Meetings will be held in lunch periods, ideally with catering provided by sponsors, so as to include more people in leading and planning COSPAR activities.
6. More efforts to reduce Event disruptions caused by missing presentations; ZARM, the LOC, the Program Chair, and Event organisers will coordinate to eliminate from the program presentations whose authors have not registered or confirmed attendance, iterating the program as required.
7. Panel discussions, each with one or more abstracts and associated oral slots, may be proposed since these can be effective ways to promote discussion and develop consensus.

In addition, COSPAR has introduced a modest Abstract fee of 25 Euros, intended to reimburse COSPAR's costs, improve equity, and reduce no-shows.

In conclusion, the above changes are intended to make the Assembly more equitable, streamlined, and effective and to increase the participation of a larger number and more diverse set of presenters, especially female and younger Associates. The Program Committee, Local Organizing Committee, and COSPAR leadership look forward to your excellent abstracts and to working with you to make the COSPAR 2020 Scientific Assembly a great success for everyone concerned.

Sincerely,

Iver Cairns

Chair, COSPAR 2020 Program Committee