



May/June 2020 • Issue 66 supplement

Currents

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NOIRLab Newsletter Launched: A new newsletter series, *The NOIRLab Mirror*, highlights the science, technology, and program developments of all five Programs: Community Science and Data Center (CSDC), Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO), Gemini Observatory, Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO), and Vera C. Rubin Observatory Operations. The inaugural issue also features the perspectives of five distinguished scientists on the appropriate roles of a national observatory.

[Read more in the inaugural issue...](#)

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June AAS Meeting: This week's NOIRLab-related events include:

- Webinar by NOIRLab **Director Pat McCarthy** on "NSF's NOIRLab: Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis and Science Restart Plans" [Read more...](#)
 - NOIRLab **booth demos, assistance, and discussion** on:
 - **Data Lab** science platform (Mon 1 June, 1:40-2:40pm EDT)
 - **Astro Data Archive** (Mon 1 June, 5:30-6:30pm EDT)
 - **ANTARES** time domain broker (Tues 2 June, 1:40-2:40pm EDT)
 - **Time Allocation Committee** evolution (Wed 3 June, 1:40-2:40pm 40pm and 5:30-6:30 EDT)
 - **Gemini User Support**
- [For more information and updates...](#)
- Plenary presentation by **Dara Norman** (NOIRLab) on "The Inclusion Revolution". [Read more...](#)
 - Special session hosted by WIYN Observatory on their **exoplanet research capabilities** available through the NASA-NSF Exoplanet Observational Research (NN-EXPLORE) program. [Read more...](#)



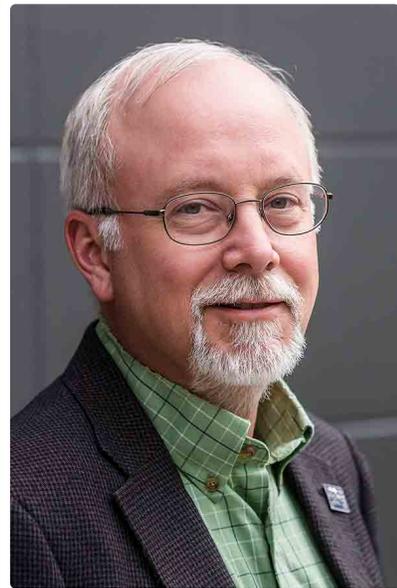
Summer AAS Meeting Events

With the [236th AAS meeting going virtual](#), the following events will be held online, within the virtual format being planned for the meeting.

Webinar: NSF's NOIRLab—Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis and Science Restart Plans

Pat McCarthy, NOIRLab Director
Monday, 1 June, 6:00-6:30pm ET

Abstract: Launched in October 2019, NSF's NOIRLab brings together all NSF-funded OIR nighttime astronomical research facilities within a single organization. NOIRLab is enabling the next decade of astronomical discoveries through world-class, cutting-edge facilities and science. Through its five Programs—[Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory](#) (CTIO), the [Community Science and Data Center](#) (CSDC), [Gemini Observatory](#), [Kitt Peak National Observatory](#) (KPNO) and [Vera C. Rubin Observatory](#) operations—NOIRLab serves as a focal point for community development of innovative scientific programs, the exchange of ideas, and other creative development. Closed to science operations since mid-March, a staged restart plan is unfolding now with facilities reopening on timescales appropriate for the conditions at each observatory site. Come learn how NOIRLab can enhance your science and our developing plans for getting you back on sky!



Patrick McCarthy

NOIRLab Booth Events and Activities

Join us at the NOIRLab booth in the virtual exhibit hall for the following events:

Data Lab science platform demo
Monday 1 June, 1:40-2:40pm EDT
Hosts: Stephanie Juneau and Robert Nikutta (CSDC/NOIRLab)

Astro Data Archive introduction and demo
Monday 1 June, 5:30-6:30pm EDT
Hosts: Sean McManus and Knut Olsen (CSDC/NOIRLab)

ANTARES time domain broker demo
Tuesday 2 June, 1:40-2:40pm EDT
Host: Chien-Hsiu Lee (CSDC/NOIRLab)

Evolution of the Time Allocation Committee introduction and discussion
Wednesday 3 June, 1:40-2:40pm 40pm and 5:30-6:30 EDT
Hosts: Dara Norman, Verne Smith (CSDC/NOIRLab)

Gemini User Support: Live at the booth!
Monday 1 June, 9:00-10:00am, 1:40-2:40pm, 5:30-6:30pm
Tuesday 2 June, 5:30-6:30pm



Wednesday 3 June, 9:00-10:00am, 5:30-6:30pm

Hosts: Morten Anderson, Bryan Miller, Venu Kalari, André-Nicolas Chené, Rodrigo Carrasco (Gemini Observatory/NOIRLab)

Plenary Presentation: The Inclusion Revolution

Dara Norman, NOIRLab

Monday, 1 June, 12:40—1:30pm ET, Claudia J. Alexander Ballroom

Abstract: The field of Astronomy has seen major changes in the last couple of decades. There have been discoveries that have evolved our understanding of the Universe. The development of new methods and gathering of datasets have expanded topical areas of the field in profound ways. We have even seen the community begin to recognize and understand that the health and well-being of the workforce cannot be ignored if we intend to continue with scientific breakthroughs. In this talk I will highlight some growing trends toward more diversity and inclusion in the field, the importance of access to decision making and research opportunities to advancing these trends, as well as some of the structural changes needed to usher in an Astronomical inclusion revolution.



Dara Norman

Special Session: The NASA-NSF Exoplanet Observational Research (NN-EXPLORE) Program at the WIYN Observatory

Wednesday, 3 June, 2:50—4:20 pm ET, Maria Mitchell Room

The NASA-NSF partnership for Exoplanet Observational Research (NN-EXPLORE), which seeks to advance the understanding of exoplanets and exoplanetary systems, supports community use of the open-access share of the WIYN 3.5-m telescope. To highlight the instrumentation and capabilities available to the community in support of the NN-EXPLORE program, the WIYN Observatory will hold a Special Session at the Summer AAS Meeting.



The session will include descriptions of science results and capabilities of WIYN's new precision radial-velocity spectrometer NEID (NN-explore Exoplanet Investigations with Doppler spectroscopy). First offered in the 2020A semester, NEID is designed for high-precision radial velocity measurements of exoplanet host stars, with a goal of achieving 27 cm/s precision per measurement. The instrument provides open-access to measurements that enable the study of Earth- and super-Earth-mass planets orbiting bright host stars over a wide range of spectral types.

The special session will also feature the science results and capabilities of other WIYN instruments that can be used for exoplanet research. These include the NASA Exoplanet Star (and) Speckle Imager (NESSI), the multi-object fiber-fed spectrograph Hydra, the WIYN High Resolution Infrared Camera (WHIRC), and the One Degree Imager (ODI). Observers interested in learning how WIYN can enhance their exoplanet research are encouraged to attend.

Contact Us

We welcome your input on this issue of *Currents*. Please contact us at currents@noao.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Currents is a spark plug for communication between us and our community. It provides updates—and solicits community input—on observing opportunities and programs and policies on a more rapid timescale than is possible with our *Newsletter*.

The NSF's National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory is the US center for ground-based optical-infrared astronomy and is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), Inc. under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

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