

IUPAP Commission C19 Report 2024-2025

This report summarizes the activities and key outcomes of the IUPAP Commission on Astrophysics (C19) during the 2024-2025 period, framed by the new commission term and leadership.

Outcomes of the 33rd IUPAP General Assembly

The 33rd IUPAP General Assembly, held in Haikou, China, from October 10-14, 2024, set the stage for the new three-year term. During this assembly, a new Executive Council was elected, and new Commission Chairs were appointed for the 2025-2027 period. It was at this event that **Prof. Shuang-Nan Zhang** was officially elected as the new Chair of C19.

The assembly also emphasized the critical importance of enhancing communication and increasing IUPAP's visibility worldwide. Additionally, new guidelines for IUPAP-sponsored conferences were approved, highlighting a focus on the **Policy on Free Circulation of Scientists** and promoting diversity through new requirements for women's representation among speakers and organizers.

IUPAP Centennial Symposium and ICS Proposal

A key initiative carried over into this term was the Inter-Commission Symposium (ICS) titled "Physics Research for a Sustainable Planet." Proposed at the IUPAP Centennial Symposium, the ICS was a major focus of C19's activity in late 2024. The international meeting, co-organized by C19 and WG21, was opened on October 12, 2024, by Nobel laureate Giorgio Parisi.

Recent C19 Online Meeting

An online meeting of the C19 Commission was held on September 12, 2025, with participants including:

- **Shuang-Nan Zhang** (Chair)
- **Carlo Ferrigno** (Vice-Chair)
- **Vivian U** (Secretary)
- **Anupama G. C.** (Member)
- **Alexander Lutovinov** (Member)
- **Christo Venter** (Member)
- **You-Hua Chu** (Member)

The agenda covered several key topics and resulted in the following actions:

- **Prize Nomination:** Following a request from the IUPAP president, members were asked to suggest candidates for a prestigious prize awarded by the UK Institute of Physics. The commission agreed to nominate **Prof. Yifang Wang (IHEP/CAS, China)**.
- **Commission Report for IUPAP Executive Council:** A C19 report is required for the IUPAP Executive Council and Commission Chairs online meeting on October 28-30,

2025. The summary of the C19 activities in 2023-2025 provided by former C19 Chair Prof. Pietro Ubertini was discussed and is supplemented at the end of this report.

- **Improving C19 Collaboration:** To facilitate in-person meetings among members, the commission agreed to use the C19 email list to share information about attendance at major international conferences. The next opportunities identified were the **IAU General Assembly in Rome** and the **APRIM in Hong Kong**.
- **Raising IUPAP's Visibility:** A general concern was raised about the low recognition of IUPAP within the astronomy and astrophysics community. To address this, C19 will send announcements of calls for applications for **IUPAP conference sponsorships** to the IAU (through Prof. You-Hua Chu) and national societies (via C19 members).

Open Discussion Topics

The meeting also included an open discussion on potential new initiatives for the commission:

- Investigating the availability of a dedicated budget from IUPAP to **sponsor travel** to astrophysics conferences.
- Coordinating with **IAU representatives** to enhance IUPAP's visibility and define a mission statement and goals for the commission.

Supplement

Summary of the C19 activities in 2023-2025 from former C19 Chair Prof. Pietro Ubertini

At the IUPAP [Centennial Symposium](#), to celebrate the 100 years of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (ICTP, Trieste, on 11, 12 and 13 July 2022), the former Chair of the C19 and several astrophysicists were present with the aim to propose to IUPAP HQ and President an **Inter Commission Symposium dedicated to the theme: Physics Research for a Sustainable Planet**.

The ICS proposal was meant to be **Co-organised by C19 (Co-Chair of the SPC Prof. Pietro Ubertini), and WG21 (Co-Chair of the SPC Prof. Nithay Chetty) and Prof. Irvy Gledhil**.

The main activity of C19 during 2023-2024 was focused to the organization of this international meeting that was opened by Giorgio Parisi, Nobel laureate, On 12 October 2024

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1369383/#b-546887-inter-commission-symp>

In addition, during the 33rd IUPAP General Assembly (10 Oct - 14 Oct 2024, Hainan, China) the IUPAP newly elected President, Prof. Silvina Ponce Dawson, and the COSPAR Vice-President, Prof. Pietro Ubertini, have informally discussed common activities between the two international bodies, eventually materialized in a two-fold items:

1. Preparation of a MoU draft to be eventually signed by the President of IUPAP and COSPAR
2. Common activities to be performed during the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly planned 1-9 August 2026 in Florence.

Just after the 33rd IUPAP GA Prof. Shuang-Nan Zhang has been appointed as C19 Chair, and is following the mentioned activities in collaboration with P. Ubertini.

We expect to have an agreed list of common activities to be performed during the COSPAR Florence 2026. Among others signature of the IUPAP-COSPAR MoU, commonly organized Scientific Events, COSPAR-IUPAP common working dinner etc.