

# AGU Fall Meeting 2020 Press Overview and FAQ

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## Overview of press resources and scientific sessions

### Media center

The [Fall Meeting Media Center](#) includes press resources, press releases and highlights, tip sheets on various topics, and information on press events, including press conferences, press briefings, media roundtables, the virtual press room and press social events.

### Virtual press room

AGU media relations staff will be available during the following hours in the virtual [press room](#) to answer your questions.

- Tuesday, 1 Dec. – Friday, 4 Dec.
  - 7-9 a.m. ET
- Monday, 7 Dec. – Friday, 11 Dec.
  - 7-9 a.m. ET
  - 3-5 p.m. ET
  - *Note: The afternoon [press room](#) will not be held on Tuesday, 8 Dec. Instead, there will be an informal reception for the [2020 journalism award winners](#) at 3 p.m. ET.*
- Monday, 14 Dec. – Thursday 17 Dec.
  - 7-9 a.m. ET.

### Press conferences

Press conferences are 45-minute panel presentations on breaking news and will be held on

the Zoom Webinar platform during the second week of the meeting, 7-11 December. Press conference topics include the state of climate change in the Arctic and the most recent results from NASA's Juno mission. Enter the press conferences via direct links from the online [Fall Meeting Media Center](#) or by navigating to "press events" from the "schedule" menu in the [online Fall Meeting platform](#), which will be available beginning 1 December.

Ask questions via the Q&A text feature during the press conference or follow panelists to a live, open Q&A Zoom Meeting discussion session immediately following the press conference. You must be a registered journalist to ask questions.

Press conferences will be recorded and will be available on the [event page](#) on the Fall Meeting Media Center, in the "press events" section under the "schedule" menu in the online meeting platform and on AGU's [YouTube channel](#). Press materials, including slides, will be available on the [event page](#) on the Fall Meeting Media Center.

The password for all press events is **agupress**.

**Note: Press event times on the Fall Meeting Media Center are listed in U.S. Eastern Time (ET).**

### Press briefings

Press briefings are 45-minute panel presentations on Zoom Webinar providing updates on current topical research or future missions or projects. While these briefings will not cover breaking news, they will likely cover topics from upgrades to the human-occupied submersible Alvin to how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected marine life. Enter the press briefings via direct links from the online [Fall Meeting Media Center](#) or by navigating to "press events" from the "schedule" menu in the [online Fall Meeting platform](#), which will be available beginning 1 December.

Ask questions via the Q&A text feature during the press conference or follow panelists to a live, open Q&A Zoom Meeting discussion session immediately following the press briefing. You must be a registered journalist to ask questions.

Press briefings will be recorded and will be available on the [event page](#) on the Fall Meeting Media Center, in the "press events" section under the "schedule" menu in the online meeting platform and on AGU's [YouTube channel](#). Press materials, including slides, will be available on the [event page](#) on the Fall Meeting Media Center.

The password for all press events is **agupress**.

**Note: Press event times on the Fall Meeting Media Center are listed in U.S. Eastern Time (ET).**

## Media roundtables

Media roundtables are 45-minute Zoom Meeting Q&A sessions that provide background information on topics in the news and upcoming projects in an informal, discussion-style setting with reporters encouraged to ask questions at any time. These sessions cover topics in the news and upcoming projects, from potential life on Venus to what to expect during the next solar cycle.

Enter the media roundtables via direct links from the online Fall Meeting Media Center or by navigating to “press events” from the “schedule” menu in the [online Fall Meeting platform](#), which will be available beginning 1 December.

Media roundtables will not be recorded. Press materials will be available on the [event page](#) on the Fall Meeting Media Center.

The password for all press events is **agupress**.

**Note: Press event times on the Fall Meeting Media Center are listed in U.S. Eastern Time (ET).**

## Press releases

News releases from [AGU](#) and [other institutions](#) will be released regularly during the AGU Fall Meeting. You can find all the press releases in the [AGU newsroom](#). Press materials from other institutions can be found under the [featured research](#) section of the AGU newsroom.

Public information officers who wish to add press releases, tip sheets and other materials to the [featured research](#) section of the AGU newsroom can submit materials via the [featured research submission form](#). All materials submitted through the form must include a link from another website to the press material (e.g. a press release submitted through the form should link to the release on your institution’s website). Any multimedia for download should be available through the link you provide.

PIOs can submit featured research materials at any time before or during the meeting. PIOs can also schedule items to publish at a specific date and time.

**Note:** *Only PIOs from recognized scientific societies, educational institutions, government agencies and non-profit Earth and space science research organizations are eligible to submit press items. The AGU press office may not publish any items submitted by PIOs who do not meet these criteria.*

## AGU tip sheets and highlights

Browse Fall Meeting [highlights](#) and our [tips](#) on potentially newsworthy research

presentations by topic, including new research on climate change, COVID-19, natural hazards and planetary exploration.

## Other press events

Join us on Zoom to congratulate the [2020 AGU journalism award winners](#) at an informal [journalism awards reception for Fall Meeting press registrants](#) on Tuesday, 8 Dec. at 3 p.m. ET.

The D.C. Science Writers Association invites all Fall Meeting press attendees to their [annual holiday party](#). Join DCSWA members and friends for a free festive celebration on Gather Town, a virtual platform designed for networking on Thursday, 10 December at 6-8 p.m. ET.

## Navigating the online meeting

The full [scientific program is online](#). Toggle between the meeting default time zone (PST or UTC -8) and your time zone through the widget at the bottom left-hand corner. Browse presentation abstracts by day or session type, or [search](#) for keywords or people. E-posters, recorded talks and live panel discussions are linked to the presentation abstracts. Get an overview of the schedule on the [schedule-at-a-glance](#).

Attendees will be able to access a session through a link in the scientific program or by navigating to the session from the [online Fall Meeting platform](#), which will be available beginning 1 December.

Please see the section below for more [detail on the scientific program](#).

## Contacts

Email [news@agu.org](mailto:news@agu.org) for immediate response or call:

- Nanci Bompey, media relations director, at 202-777-7524.
- Lauren Lipuma, media relations program manager, at 202-777-7396.
- Liza Lester, senior media relations specialist, at 202-777-7494.
- Katie Broendel, media relations program manager, at 202-777-7459.

## FAQ about press conferences and roundtables

### Where is the press event schedule?

The press event schedule is on the Fall Meeting Media Center and by accessing the “Press Events” from the “Schedule” menu on the [online Fall Meeting platform](#), which will be available beginning 1 December.

**Please note: Times are listed on the [Fall Meeting Media Center](#) in U.S. Eastern Time (ET).**

## Do I need to RSVP for events?

It is not necessary to RSVP for press events. However, you must be registered as press for the Fall Meeting to attend and access the press conferences. Please be sure to apply for [press registration](#) at least a few days before a press conference that you would like to attend to ensure you are registered and can access the online platform.

The password for all press events is **agupress**.

## Are the press events part of the virtual conference center?

You can access press events by selecting “Press Events” from the “Schedule” dropdown menu in the [online Fall Meeting platform](#), which will be available beginning 1 December. If you are having trouble accessing the events, please email [news@agu.org](mailto:news@agu.org).

## Where are the press conferences/how do I get there?

Press conferences and press briefings will be held on the Zoom Webinar platform. You will need to log into the Fall Meeting online platform. You can access press conferences and other press events by clicking on “Press Events” in the “Schedule” dropdown menu. You can also enter press conferences and other press events via direct links from the online Fall Meeting Media Center [event page](#).

Press conferences and press briefings will be recorded and will be available on the [event page](#) and AGU’s [YouTube channel](#). Press materials, including slides, will be available on the [event page](#) on the Fall Meeting Media Center.

The password for all press events is **agupress**.

If you are registered as press for the meeting but you are having a difficult time accessing the press conferences, please email [news@agu.org](mailto:news@agu.org).

**Please note: Times on the [Fall Meeting Media Center](#) are listed in U.S. Eastern Time (ET).**

## Can scientists or other non-registered-press colleagues attend?

Press conferences and events are limited to press registrants. Press conference recordings will be available on the [event page](#) and AGU’s [YouTube channel](#).

*Note for public information officers organizing press events:* If there are additional non-press participants who need to be in the press conference (for example, during Q&A), please email [news@agu.org](mailto:news@agu.org).

## How do press conferences, briefings and roundtables differ?

Press conferences are about new research being presented at the AGU Fall Meeting and will also cover breaking news. There will be short presentations by a panel of presenters, followed by moderated Q&A. Press conferences will be held on the Zoom Webinar

platform. There will also be a discussion room with the presenters immediately following the press conference for additional Q&A. The discussion room will be held on the Zoom Meeting platform.

Press briefings provide background information on research presented at the AGU Fall Meeting, including mission updates and new tools across the Earth and space sciences. Experts will provide presentations on the Zoom Webinar platform. Immediately following, there will be an open Q&A in a Zoom Meeting discussion room.

Media roundtables are about research being presented at the AGU Fall Meeting or information about a topic in Earth and space science. Generally, these will not be breaking news but could still contain new research findings and topics in the news. Experts will provide information and answer reporters' questions about that subject in an informal, conversational setting. These will be held on the Zoom Meeting platform.

### **How do I ask questions?**

During press conferences and press briefings, questions can be submitted by reporters via a text question box and will be asked to the presenters by AGU staff. Only registered journalists may ask questions during a press conference. When asking a question, reporters must identify themselves by name and affiliation. There will also be a discussion room with the presenters immediately following the press conference for additional Q&A where reporters can ask the questions via video and/or audio.

During media roundtables, reporters can ask questions via video and/or audio in the Zoom Meeting platform.

### **How do the discussion rooms work?**

Immediately following the press conference or briefing, presenters and reporters will use a Zoom Meeting link to enter a discussion room where presenters will continue the discussion with reporters and answer questions. All presenters and reporters will be able to use their video and audio to interact.

### **Will these sessions be recorded?**

All press conferences and press briefings will be recorded on Zoom Webinar. [Recordings will be available](#) after the event on AGU's [YouTube channel](#). Links to the recordings and associated slides will be available on the [event page](#) in the Fall Meeting Media Center.

The discussion rooms and media roundtables will not be recorded.

### **Where can I find presenter slides and other multimedia?**

Presenter slides and any additional information, including press releases and multimedia, can be found in the press event information section of the Fall Meeting Media Center.

## Navigating the online meeting

### Zoom and the online meeting platform

Members of the press should download the [latest version of Zoom](#) before Fall Meeting to ensure press conferences, briefings and discussions run as smoothly as possible. If you have trouble during the meeting, try removing your virtual background and/or turn off your camera.

The online meeting platform will be accessed using your AGU username and password that you used to register for the meeting. We encourage you to test your [login](#) before the meeting begins and login to the online platform the week of 1 December to ensure you can access the [virtual press room](#), oral sessions, posters, etc.

### Schedule-at-a-glance/time zones

The [schedule at-a-glance](#) allows you to see an overview of the Fall Meeting scientific program. You can select your closest time zone to see when sessions will occur.

#### [Time zone converter](#)

**Please note:** The default time zone for the meeting is the U.S. Pacific Standard Time zone (PST) (UTC -8). If you are logged in, the [scientific program](#) will show your local time. You can see the time on the lower left-hand side of the home page.

### Layout of the virtual convention center

AGU will have an [online Fall Meeting platform](#), which will be available beginning 1 December. This platform will serve as the virtual conference center where you will be able to access all scientific sessions, including oral sessions, keynotes/plenaries, poster presentations, AGU Central and exhibitors. Scientific sessions, including posters and recorded oral session content, can also be accessed directly through [the scientific program](#). See “scientific session types” below for more information.

### Press-only sessions

Press-only sessions will be listed in the Fall Meeting Media Center. The password for all press events is **agupress**.

In the online conference center, you can find press sessions by clicking on “Press Events” in the “Schedule” dropdown menu.

See above for [more detail about press events](#).



## Scientific session types

Attendees can access the more than 1,000 sessions—and nearly 20,000 submitted abstracts—in [the scientific program](#) online and also by navigating to the session via the online platform.

Pre-recorded content and posters will be available starting 1 December.

All sessions will be recorded. The recording will be available for attendees during the meeting, usually within 48 hours. The recordings will be available from the session listing in the scientific program and by navigating to the session via the online platform.

**Oral sessions** include pre-recorded presentations with a scheduled one-hour live Q&A with a group of presenters. Pre-recorded presentations will be available starting 1 December and the Q&A will occur at the date and time listed in the scientific program. The Q&A and discussion will be moderated by the session chairs. The live Q&A sessions will be recorded and available for on-demand viewing by attendees during the rest of the meeting.

Live oral sessions will take place 7-11 December and 14-17 December. This is an [example of an oral session](#).

**eLightning sessions** will be one hour in length, starting with a three-minute lightning presentation from each presenter who will provide an overview of their digital, interactive poster. This will be followed by a group discussion as time permits. The live Q&A sessions will be recorded and available for on-demand viewing. Virtual posters will be available starting 1 December.

Presenters are also requested to be available for one hour after the live session for direct text chat with attendees. Presenters will have the option to schedule additional text chat times during the meeting at their discretion.

Live eLightning sessions will take place 7-11 December and 14-17 December. This is an example of [an eLightning session](#).

**Poster sessions** include a virtual poster with a poster session scheduled over the course of one day during the meeting. Presenters will designate the time they will be available for text chats to discuss their digital poster. This information will appear on their poster in the poster gallery and also in the scientific program. Authors also have the option of scheduling additional text chat times during the meeting at their discretion. Additional engagement including group discussions or virtual “poster walks” and engagement, similar to but more flexible than that of eLightning sessions, will also be available, and will be listed in the scientific program.

Virtual posters will be available starting 1 December.

Poster sessions will be held 7-11 December and 14-16 December. This is [an example of a poster session](#).

**AGU Innovations** include deep-dive and curated sessions on topics of high interest such as COVID, scientific collaboration and social justice.

Innovation sessions will take place 1-5 December and 14-17 December

**Town halls** provide updates and a chance to discuss ideas with organizations, agencies and the scientific community on a variety of topics.

Town Halls will take place 1-5 December, 7-11 December and 14-17 December

## Noteworthy sessions

The AGU Fall Meeting includes sessions covering a variety of important and/or timely topics. This year, please consider attending these noteworthy sessions, including:

- [COVID-19 sessions](#).
- [Diversity, equity and inclusion events](#).
- Late-breaking sessions, including topics from all aspects of COVID-19 to the global dynamics, impacts, effects and implications of recent natural hazards to research related to the possible presence of phosphine on Venus.
- [Plenaries/Keynotes](#): 1-5 December, 7-11 December and 14-17 December.
  - Keynotes will be [recorded and available online](#).
- [Other suggested itineraries](#) on various topics.

## Networking

An online networking platform allows attendees to talk either one-on-one or in a small group of up to five people to discuss a particular topic. This will be available in the online meeting platform. These sessions can be scheduled from 6:00-10:00 a.m. PST (UTC -8) and 3:00-7:00 p.m. PST (UTC -8) on the following days:

- Tuesday, 8 December
- Thursday, 10 December
- Friday, 11 December
- Tuesday, 15 December
- Wednesday, 16 December

## Pod Reservation System

Pods are a great option for Fall Meeting attendees who want to interact with colleagues and fellow attendees outside of the scientific sessions. Each [text chat pod can be reserved](#) for a 30-minute time slot.

## Saving/personalizing your Fall Meeting schedule

After logging in to the [scientific program](#), click the + symbol next to the sessions you are interested in attending to add those items to 'My Schedule.' Click the calendar icon in the menu to access your schedule.

Click the star icon to add (or remove) an item to 'My Favorites.' Click the person icon to add (or remove) a person to 'My Contacts.'

## How to get help

For press-related inquiries, please contact [news@agu.org](mailto:news@agu.org). Fall Meeting media resources are also available online.

The AGU virtual [press room](#) will be staffed on:

- Tuesday, 1 Dec. – Friday, 4 Dec.
  - 7-9 a.m. ET
- Monday, 7 Dec. – Friday, 11 Dec.
  - 7-9 a.m. ET
  - 3-5 p.m. ET
  - *Note: The afternoon [press room](#) will not be held on Tuesday, 8 Dec. Instead, there will be an informal reception for the [2020 journalism award winners](#) at 3 p.m. ET.*
- Monday, 14 Dec. – Thursday 17 Dec.
  - 7-9 a.m. ET.

For general meeting inquiries, please contact [meetinginfo@agu.org](mailto:meetinginfo@agu.org) or visit the help desk in the online meeting platform.

## Photography and recording guidance for journalists covering AGU meetings

The following guidance applies to all in-person and online meetings hosted by AGU. Any photography, audio and video recording restrictions apply to those that can be conducted on a computer, tablet, cell phone or any other mobile or recording device.

### Use of photography

Photography by members of the media for social media and news media use is allowed in all AGU press conferences held in the AGU press conference room.

Photography by members of the media for social media and news media use is permitted throughout AGU meetings, including at social events, in the Exhibit Hall, in public spaces, in

oral and poster sessions, as well as named lectures, public lectures, town halls, plenaries and keynotes – unless the presenter has exercised the option to be excluded.

Members of the media should not photograph the presenter and/or their work if:

- The presenter has affixed a “no photo” image provided by AGU to the poster or the presentation; or their own no photo image (insert image here)
- The presenter explicitly states to the audience that they prefer no photographs be taken. Understanding that attendees come in and out of the room during sessions, AGU recommends that presenters mark each slide with the photography image to ensure that attendees are aware of their preference.

When a photograph of a presenter, of a presenter’s slides, or a presenter’s poster is shared on social media or used for news media use, the presenter must be identified and credited by name.

Members of the media are expected to honor the preference of any presenter who has indicated “no photo.”

Members of the media should be respectful and considerate of presenters and meeting attendees and should not block attendees view of presenters when capturing photos, or otherwise disrupt presentations.

Members of the media should not photograph individuals under 18 years of age without explicit verbal or written permission of a parent or guardian.

### **Audio and video recording**

Audio and video recording by members of the media for social media and news media use is allowed in all AGU press conferences held in the AGU press conference room.

Audio and video recording by members of the media for social media and news media use is allowed at social events, in the Exhibit Hall and in public spaces throughout the meeting.

Audio and video recording of oral sessions, poster sessions and named lectures, town halls, plenaries and keynotes by members of the media for social media and news media use is strictly forbidden without the express written consent of AGU.

Members of the media should be respectful and considerate of presenters and meeting attendees, and should not block attendees view of presenters when capturing audio or video, or otherwise disrupt presentations.

Members of the media should not film or record individuals under 18 years of age without explicit verbal or written permission of a parent or guardian.