

Laboratory Astrophysics Division of the American Astronomical Society (AAS/LAD)

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The purpose of the Laboratory Astrophysics Division (LAD) of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) is to advance our understanding of the Universe through the promotion of fundamental theoretical and experimental research into the underlying processes that drive the Cosmos. LAD represents all areas of astrophysics and planetary sciences.

The first new AAS Division in more than 30 years, the LAD was established in 2012 and traces its history back to the recommendation from the scientific community via the White Paper from the 2006 NASA-sponsored Laboratory Astrophysics Workshop. This recommendation was endorsed by the Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee (AAAC), which advises the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on selected issues within the fields of astronomy and astrophysics that are of mutual interest and concern to the agencies. In January 2007, at the 209th AAS meeting, the AAS Council set up a Steering Committee to formulate Bylaws for a Working Group on Laboratory Astrophysics (WGLA). The AAS Council formally established the WGLA with a five-year mandate in May 2007, at the 210th AAS meeting.

From 2008 through 2012, the WGLA annually sponsored Meetings in-a-Meeting at the AAS Summer Meetings [2]. In May 2011, at the 218th AAS meeting, the AAS Council voted to convert the WGLA, at the end of its mandate, into a Division of the AAS and requested draft Bylaws from the Steering Committee. In January 2012, at the 219th AAS Meeting, the AAS Council formally approved the Bylaws [1] and the creation of the LAD. The inaugural gathering and its first business meeting of the LAD were held at the 220th AAS meeting in June 2012.

The operating structure of the Laboratory Astrophysics Division, the role of the Division within the AAS and its goals and objectives will be presented. You can learn more about LAD by visiting its website at <http://lad.aas.org/>, by subscribing to its mailing list [3] and/or by joining the LAD [4].

References:

- [1] Bylaws of the Laboratory Astrophysics Division. http://lad.aas.org/business_and_bylaws
- [2] Meetings of the Laboratory Astrophysics Division. <http://lad.aas.org/meetings>
- [3] Communication, <http://lad.aas.org/listserv>
- [4] Membership, <http://lad.aas.org/members>