

# Astro 2020

Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics

DDDF #X sgdwh  
48#Mxqh#5353

*The National  
Academies of*

SCIENCES  
ENGINEERING  
MEDICINE

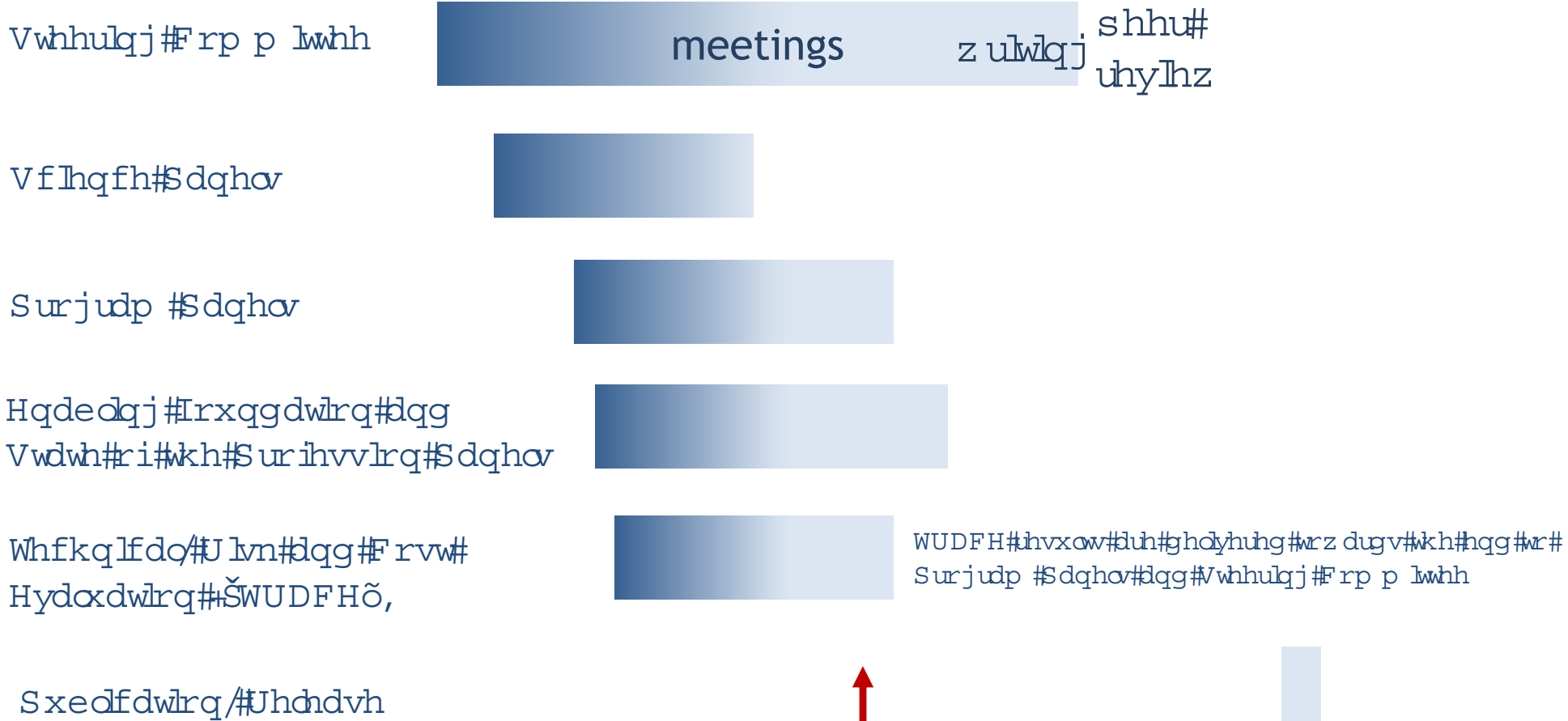
[nas.edu/astro2020](https://nas.edu/astro2020)



# Survey Structure (Background)

- Steering Committee (20 members)
  - plan overall review process, in consultation with NAS
  - synthesize outputs from the 13 science, program, and state of profession panels into an overall decadal strategy and survey report
  - member serves on each panel to facilitate communication, coordination
- Science Panels (6 panels, 8-11 members each)
  - review all science white papers, review science advances since Astro2010, identify high-priority scientific questions and discovery areas for the coming decade
- Program Panels (6 panels, 12 members each)
  - review relevant project/program APC's, assess proposed projects in terms of science return and priorities, technical readiness, risk, cost
- State of the Profession and Societal Impacts (1 panel, 15 members)
  - review health and demographics of the astronomy and astrophysics community, identify milestones and actions for the coming decade

# G hfdgdq#Wxuyh | #Wlp hldqh#SuhØR YIG ,



↑  
**We are here**

# Impacts and Response to COVID-19

- From mid-March all panel meetings conducted remotely
  - some panels directly affected but completed meetings
- Astro2020 Steering committee meetings went virtual starting March
- Core principal has been to balance maintaining momentum with considering the well-being of survey participants and staff
  - Many participants are balancing tele-work with home-schooling etc

# Progress Since Covid

- SC chairs and NAS had conversations with agency leadership to get guidance
  - Basic guidance unchanged (for now)
  - Time pressure for survey release comes from NSF
- Program panels completed deliberations (some remote)
- Virtual steering committee meetings
  - Meeting #3 (virtual) March 25-26 focused on briefings from international agencies
  - Meeting #4 (virtual) May 4 - 6 focused on reports from program panels
  - Meeting #5 (virtual) June 23-26 will be follow-up on program panel reports

# Plan Forward

- Commitment to maintaining forward progress
  - Steering committee continues to meet via zoom weekly
  - Virtual meetings continue, albeit with reduced significantly efficiency compared to in-person
- Unknowns
  - Will the SC be able to meet in person for final deliberations?
  - If not, how effectively can key decisions be finalized virtually?
  - How much will Covid disruptions continue to impact time commitments of survey members
- Impact on survey delivery
  - Minimum is estimated at two months (March/April 2021 compared to January 2021)
  - Commitment on part of chairs/NAS to minimize the slip within constraints

# Questions?

*NB: Now that deliberations are under way, we cannot comment on specific projects, missions, proposals, or white papers.*

# Technical, Risk, & Cost Evaluation (TRACE; formerly known as CATE)

- Independent evaluation of project/activity concepts for technical risk, maturity and cost/schedule
- TRACE process will provide an analysis of technology development needs and an independent cost assessment
- Analysis (and the survey) recognizes most concepts evaluated are early stage (pre-Phase A)
- Process is accommodating the varying levels of definition and maturity of implementation plans