

Hello again. I'm Iver Cairns, the Chair of the Program Committee for COSPAR 2021.

This information is to help you use the Platform as well as possible and to let you know that we are evolving the Platform too.

- First, I remind you that there are two types of Live Q&A Sessions, the Live video Q&A sessions (which involve oral questions with video of the speakers and chair, with technical help) and Live text Q&A sessions (which involve text-based questions and no technical help) . Both of these involve people submitting questions to the Chair via a text chat box.
- There is a pdf on the Assembly platform that summarises the program and specifies whether a given session is Live video Q&A or Live text Q&A . The pdf is on the "What's on Today" page for today Sunday 31 January 2021.
- For your information, the numbers of pre-recorded videos received and of registered speakers in a session, time zone considerations, plus other factors were taken into account to decide which Q&A sessions would involve video and which text only.
- Second, many of the Live Q&A sessions are working well, especially the Live video Q&A Sessions and involve substantial Q&A. We're relying on the Chairs to prepare their own questions and draw other questions out of you, the audience and speakers. It is particularly important for Chairs to be prepared. Everyone, whether the Chair, a speaker, or an audience member should remember that there are very few questions that are too basic or silly to ask - if *you* are wondering, then the chances are that others are wondering too, so it is likely a legitimate question.
- Third, we have increased the functionality of the Live Q&A chat box, both for the video and text sessions; so that you can see that what you typed was received. In fact, your screen, when the Chair shares it, will now show what the Chair sees, so you will know that other people are in the session too and can see their questions! You will still have your own Q&A chat box for you to write in your own questions and send them to the Chair.
- Fourth, we've had some changes made to the implementation of the Live Q&A sessions so that they are open for the full 90 minutes, do not close early, even if there is no immediate questions and has one tranche of spliced-together videos start at time zero and the second at 45 minutes. Moreover, a change from yesterday is that the MSOs and DOs are now automatically credentialed to be able to step into the role of Chair, if necessary. Remember, to enter a session just click on the session's icon on the platform.
- Fifth, we recognise that Live video Q&A may be more attractive than Live text Q&A for some people and suggest, if so, that you take advantage of the Live Q&A chat box (when the pre-record has finished) to share a link for a live video interchange (say on Skype or zoom) and tell people where you'd like to interact. Some people are already doing this and it's great! If you'd like us to make this video available at a later date, then send it to us and we'll make it available as part of the record for the session. This can complement chat messaging and video connections via the Networking Lounge, which by the way is a great place to bump into people and see who is around and available to network.

The LOC, me and all others involved in the program want you to enjoy excellent science and discussions at the Assembly and make meaningful connections and progress. We want space science to be shared and want you to know that we are committed to this goal! Thank you for your feedback thus far and for participating in COSPAR 2021. See you in the sessions!

Yours sincerely,

Iver Cairns