



June 7, 2019

To: Distribution (Astrophysics GO Leads)
From: SMD/Director of Astrophysics
Re: Dual Anonymous Peer Reviews for Astrophysics GO Programs

In June 2018, the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) conducted a dual anonymous peer review for Cycle 26 of the Hubble General Observer (GO) program¹. The dual anonymous peer review addresses many issues of implicit bias. STScI's implementation of dual anonymous peer review was successful in Cycle 26. During June 2019, STScI will be conducting the Hubble Cycle 27 peer review, again using the dual anonymous process. STScI and NASA will review the Cycle 27 experience and outcomes to assess the dual anonymous practice.

In the absence of any contra-indications from the Hubble Cycle 27 peer review, I am directing all NASA Astrophysics GO programs to use dual anonymous peer reviews beginning in CY 2020.

In order to provide all NASA Astrophysics GO program leads with the benefit of STScI's experience, STScI will host a workshop in Fall 2019 to share their practices, lessons learned, and extant documentation with all other missions.

If you have any questions, please address them to your HQ Program Scientist or to me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "PH", located below the text "If you have any questions...".

Paul Hertz
Director, Astrophysics Missions
Science Mission Directorate

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¹ <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.3.20190301a/full/>