

Schedule Explainer

Plenary

- Another name for keynotes.
- Invited speakers, and often in response to winning an award.
- Talks give a broad overview of the speakers topic aimed at the general astronomer, whilst also giving the up-to-date results.
- There are no parallel sessions so nothing else is happening when they are on.
- **Tip:** If you are not particularly interested in a plenary speaker, this is a great time to visit the exhibit hall, as it will generally be empty!

Oral Sessions

- Sessions with multiple speakers, aligned within specific topic areas.
- These talks have been organized based on submitted abstracts.
- Most of the talks are 5 minutes long, unless it is a thesis talk, which is 15 minutes.
- Many of these sessions happen in parallel, and it is ok to visit multiple rooms during one session (just be polite!)
- **Tip:** If you are stuck on which session to go to, look at the abstracts for the talks that will be in that session. Then you can know more about it!

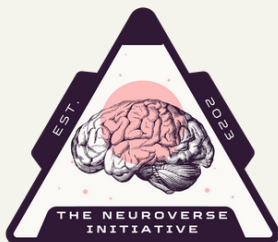
iPoster Sessions

- Welcome to adult science fair; posters are chosen through the same process as talks, and will have been based on submitted abstracts.
- There are two poster sessions a day. The morning one has free coffee and the evening one has free snacks.
- These days all posters are electronic and it's totally ok to check them out whenever.
- The posters are organized into categories to make them easier to find.
- **Tip:** The early bird gets the coffee before the line forms.

Exhibit Theater

- The exhibit theater is set up in the exhibit hall and is a chance for folks who are exhibitors to talk a little about what they do.
- This can range from career advice, to cool tech, so it is worth checking out.
- **Tip:** It can be noisy in there, so recommend sitting towards the front.

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Special Sessions

- Special sessions are the same length as oral sessions and often run parallel to them.
- The difference is they have been set up by observatories, facilities, or other groups of people to define their own topic.
- There may be talks, panels, invited speakers etc. and the format of the session is down to the organizers.
- This is often where you can find the education, and DEI sessions.
- **Tip:** DEI sessions are often scheduled for the beginning of the week.

Splinter Session

- Splinter Meetings are essentially Special Sessions but there is no time limit.
- Again they are set up independently by a facility, observatory, or other group.
- **Tip:** Check the times on these ones, some last all day!

Town Hall

- Town Halls are set up by agencies, often to discuss policy, missions etc.
- Some examples are NASA and NSF, who both have a town hall this week.
- **Tip:** Even if you don't think this is relevant at your career stage, check one of these out, it often provides insight to the decisions behind science management.

Workshops

- Workshops happen the weekend before the main meeting.
- Many have a cost associated with them, which needs to be paid before the workshop starts.

Attendee Event

- These are more or less social events and often contain free food or beverages; these include the opening ceremony etc.
- Some 'attendee events' on the schedule are reminders of the existence of certain areas, i.e., the quiet room.

HAD Division

HEAD Division

- Used to be called meeting-in-a-meeting, these are sessions run throughout the week by divisions within the AAS. This year there are two:
 - HAD, The Historical Astronomy Division
 - HEAD, The High Energy Astrophysics Division



If you see this logo throughout the schedule it means there is a good chance there will be free food and drink at this event.