

## ExMAG/CAPTEM Town Hall Meeting

February 25, 2021, 3:00–5:00 p.m. EST

### Agenda

**3:00** - Welcome and purpose of meeting

**3:05** - NASA Analysis Groups and changes – Dr. Jeff Grossman, NASA HQ

**3:15** - Updated Sample Allocation process – Dr. Francis McCubbin, NASA Astromaterials Curator

**3:25** - Meet your Extraterrestrial Materials Analysis Group (ExMAG) – Barbara Cohen, ExMAG Chair

**3:45** - Community Q&A

### Conveners:

Barbara Cohen, ExMAG Chair, *NASA Goddard Space Flight Center*

Hope Ishii, ExMAG Vice Chair, *University of Hawaii*

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**Barbara Cohen:** Intro, welcome

What is ExMAG (Extraterrestrial Materials Analysis Group): community-based interdisciplinary forum for all collection, curation, science of ET samples, including curation, labs, sample return missions, human exploration objectives, etc.

**Jeff Grossman:** CAPTEM → ExMAG description and motivations

“AG” portion is morphing into something new; 2 key things to note:

1. In terms of requesting extraterrestrial materials from NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC), allocation process looks the same externally (peer review, etc.)

2. AG function: Nothing that CAPTEM did that ExMAG can't do but ExMAG will be able to do more. Transition has advantages and nothing is lost.

History:

In last year, Planetary Science Division (PSD) looked at all AGs (MEPAG, etc.) and would like to standardize, fund, and structure them similarly. Pointed out that dual nature of CAPTEM as a review panel and an advisory group was problematic. Review function was at odds with the other AGs.

In CAPTEM, there was no clear distinction between allocation evaluation and community analysis, so membership needed to be controlled for expertise to avoid conflicts of interest. Opening the community analysis to all interested parties and removing potential for conflict is what happened, and now CAPTEM is separated into AARG (Astromaterials Allocation Review Board) and the advisory portion became ExMAG as a public forum.

Subcommittee structure will be the same unless AG wants to change it

Some years ago, meteorite working group functioned like an AG (did reviews and ran its own mtgs and AG functions) – when incorporated into CAPTEM, they kept doing that, as a mini version of CAPTEM within CAPTEM. Now they will be moved as a subpanel into AARB. Overseen by Smithsonian and NASA.

Key message - no net loss to the community, supposed to be a positive change. If community perceives that there is, they are open to hearing it.

**Frances McCubbin (Astromaterials curator):**

AARB details – This change is a seamless transition; we hope general members won't notice the changes. No changes in the following:

- Existing process for sample requests
- New samples announced in Astromaterials newsletter (described subscription info)
- Sample request evals – evaluated by panel of experts and collection curator

Implementation / structure of review process –slight changes:

Consist of 4 panels –

- Lunar Allocation
- Antarctic Meteorite Allocation
- Genesis panel
- Cosmic Dust

**Barbara Cohen:**

ExMAG structure  
Chair  
15 members

Similar to other AG groups.

Collections related subcommittees (lunar, mars, genesis, asteroids, meteorites, microparticles). Also, subcommittees for exploration hardware and facilities/informatics. Committees roughly map onto NASA collections. Meteorites subcommittee now broadened to all (not only Antarctic) meteorites. POCs for each subcommittee have already been identified (see published slides).

ExMAG activities in 2021:

- Housekeeping (chair transition, charter approval, membership review, mtg planning, etc.)
- Budget planning
- Working on website updates - keep old CAPTEM materials (mtg minutes, etc.)
- Meeting planning

Spring meeting planned to be similar to CAPTEM but not on a Sat. after LPSC like “usual”

LPI won't be able to support it week after LPSC; planned for April 7-8 1-5 pm Eastern. Agenda (posted soon) will include:

- HQ briefing
- New Frontiers 5 sample return mission language
- Mars Sample Return Science Planning Group Phase 2 (MSPG-2) update
- NASA JSC organization / facility reports
- Astromaterials curation and allocation reports
- Advanced curation topics
  - o Clean labs microbial ecology
  - o Apollo Next Generation Sample Analysis Program (ANGSA) consortium model
- Chang'e 5 sample return, Artemis curation, Artemis III SDT

Majority of that meeting will be open to the public and there will be an LPI registration process like for this meeting.

Fall Mtg (Sep. – Oct.) – virtual

- Focused on community needs for missions, facilities, etc.
- Potential topics
  - o Sampling mission updates (OSIRIS-Rex, Chang'e 5, etc.)
  - o Mars Sample Return updates from HQ, curation and planning for Mars Sample Return, contamination
  - o New Frontiers and Discovery mission proposals
  - o Sample – handling subsystems for sampling – ready for OSIRIS-Rex, Artemis? NASA briefing on Planetary Major Equipment and LARS program stats
  - o Sample return analysis facilities
  - o Early career contributions (details TBD)
  - o Call for community contributions (distributed through social media, newsletters, etc.)

Membership updates

ExMAG members bring expertise and conduct studies for sample science, future mission, curation, analysis, communicate findings to planetary science community and NASA

- Subcommittee brings specialized knowledge to advise NASA
- Seeks membership as diverse as the community itself is
- Seeking 3 diverse subcommittee members, call (coming soon) due Mar. 31:
  - 1 Lunar
  - 2 Meteorite

### **Audience Q&A portion**

1. Why don't you want to use NSPIRES for proposal reviews?

**Jeff Grossman:** Don't want to make too many changes all at once. No reason why can't but don't need to immediately.

2. Would curators be ex-officios or eligible for full membership?

**Barbara Cohen:** People on curation staff at NASA JSC can't be chairs or on subcommittees that relate to their collection. That committee is there for providing analysis to the curator. However,

discussed in committee that folks on curation staff also bring knowledge and facility insights that are valuable and eligible to be regular members. They are important and partners / resources for AG subcommittees but not members. An example was provided from the Lunar subcommittee.

3. Is the membership open worldwide?

**Barbara Cohen:** Yes, foreign nationals and non-US members are possible. We are global scientists, but emphasize that guidance is for NASA. AG meetings and participation is open to whole community, not just named persons.

**From Rhonda Stroud:** There is ESA rep for Mars on the main committee. Currently this is Caroline Smith.

**Danny Glavin:** International participation will be important, especially looking ahead to MSR (joint ESA/NASA, etc.)

4. Will ExMAG be offering early career opportunities similar to other AGs?

**Barbara Cohen:** Yes, looking to do that in the fall meeting.

5. If I come up with a proposal to analyse a sample, should I go to you? How? How will you handle the Bennu sample?

**Francis McCubbin:** Sample requests are made to collection curator. Info is on the website. Lunar / meteorite requests happen 2x a year, coincide with publication of newsletter, others are *ad hoc*. Stay tuned, we will keep you informed via newsletter and other means.

6. LEAG has an early career secretary on their executive committee. That could be a cool opportunity for early career researchers in this group as well.

**Barbara Cohen:** SBAG inherited secretary, Liz Rampe. There are + and – to being a secretary as an early career. Or that can be a subcommittee member too. They are welcome.

SBAG and MExAG have dedicated full committee early career positions too. LEAG's early career person is a full member, not just a secretary.

7. Are international members selected only when international participation is present: NASA-ESA or NASA-JAXA or would membership be more open to international participation?

**Barbara Cohen:** Membership is open to international participation but does advise NASA community, if selected.

8. Many of the existing AG's seem to fulfill the analysis role envisioned here, but verge into an advocacy role for the respective body, region of the Solar System, etc. What role do you see ExMAG playing in advocating for sample return/analyses above and beyond just analyzing what is proposed, in development or in flight?

**Barbara Cohen:** Advocacy is another “A” word in AG, when appropriate and necessary. We need to make sure sample community is represented and gets its fair shake in all competitions, including missions. She thinks they *are* advocacy groups – community's way to advocate what community thinks NASA needs. Doesn't see that as a bad thing.

**Tim McCoy:** To clarify, I think the advocacy part, when done appropriately, is great strength of this organization to influence what will happen. Hopes AG will take advantage of that.

(Many audience members expressed agreement with Tim's statement.)

9. Can international participants receive honoraria?

**Jeff Grossman:** Yes, but it isn't easy.

10. I would gladly volunteer to review allocation requests, do I have to be a subcommittee member to review these?

**Barbara Cohen:** Remember that ExMAG does not review allocations and neither does subcommittee, so Francis McCubbin is the one now doing allocations.

**Jeff Grossman:** If you want to volunteer to be on one of these collections allocations, contact Francis McCubbin.

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### **Closing remarks from Barbara**

All info here will be put on website, including recording, slides, and an email to which you can send comments.

PPT will be on ExMAG website (currently CAPTEM website).

Mayra De Leon (LPI contact and meeting host) will send an email to all participants to let them know when and where information will be available.

I hope to see many of you at fall meeting.

Thanks everyone for coming, looking forward to working with you all.

[Meeting end: 4:00 pm, Eastern]