

Information on Themed Joint Sessions and Core Science Keynotes

2017 Annual Meeting Program Committee
&
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The 2017 Annual Meeting Program Committee is planning to have Themed Joint Sessions as well as continue the Core Science Keynote series that was started at the AMS 2015 Annual Meeting. Below we summarize the approach for both and identify options to combine them, if appropriate, for your conference/symposium.

Themed Joint Sessions

AMS President Fred Carr has asked each conference/symposium at the 2017 Annual Meeting to convene a Themed Joint Session on the greatest observational needs for their discipline. For these sessions, he recommends that the conference chair(s) solicit presentations for this session from well-known observational or instrumentation experts. An effort will then be made to harvest these observational needs from all conferences and produce a document that will be useful to policymakers. When planning these sessions, please keep in mind that The 2017 Annual Meeting Program Committee is planning an Observational Symposium on Wednesday. This symposium will have short, high-level talks on the status of observations in 16 different components of the weather, water and climate enterprise. The Program Committee will be working with the participating conferences during the year on coordinating the time of the various observational needs sessions.

Core Science Keynotes

The 2017 AM Program Committee would also like to continue the “Core Science Keynote” series started 2 years ago. These talks summarize the state of current knowledge of a field in a manner that is accessible to all AMS disciplines. We suggest that the Core Science Keynote talks address the topic of the greatest observational needs in the sub-discipline of each particular conference. We realize that this idea may not be appropriate nor even make sense for some conferences of the Annual Meeting and for those we recommend that a Keynote talk be given on an appropriate important topic.

Option to include both a Themed Joint Session and a Core Science Keynote

If your conference/symposium is planning a Themed Joint Session as well as a Core Science Keynote, we suggest that the Keynote speaker addresses the topic of greatest observational needs as the lead talk in your session. In an effort to avoid conflicts on these talks, we recommend that you contact Claudia Gorski (cgorski@ametsoc.org) as soon as you know when your talk will be planned. Because there are 11 sessions on Mon., Tues. and Thur. available for these talks (Wed. is omitted owing to the Observational Symposium that day), we will do our

best to avoid having more than one Core Science Keynote schedule at the same time. If there are more than 11 Keynote talks, we would need to schedule two (but not more) Core Science Keynote talks simultaneously. Similarly, we propose to minimize overlap among the various themed joint sessions on greatest observational needs.

To summarize, here are the options in rough order of preference of the 2017 AM Program Committee:

1. Organize a themed joint session on the greatest observational needs in your discipline(s), which is led off by a Core Science Keynote talk on this topic by a distinguished leader in the field.
2. Have a Core Science Keynote speaker address the greatest observational needs issue, without having additional talks on this subject in the session (no joint themed session).
3. Have a Core Science Keynote talk in your conference/symposium on another topic, but still organize a themed joint session on greatest observational needs.
4. Have a themed joint session on greatest observational needs without a Core Science Keynote talk.
5. Have a Core Science Keynote talk in your conference/symposium on a topic of your choice and do not have a themed joint session.
6. Do not have a Core Science Keynote talk or themed joint session.

We welcome comments and feedback on these suggestions. To help the AM Program Committee with its planning and coordination, we ask all Program Chairs to please contact Fred Carr (fcarr@ou.edu) and Claudia Gorski (cgorski@ametsoc.org) by **27 May** with a tentative indication on which of the above options your conference/symposium will choose.

Finally, note that we are also planning a second symposium during the Annual Meeting titled *“Special Symposium on Individual, Social, and Cultural Observations in Weather and Climate Contexts”* starting just after the Presidential Forum and ending Tuesday noon. Thus it is possible to have themed joint sessions or other coordinated activities with this symposium as well.