

William T. Reach

Candidate for USNC/IAU



Affiliation: Universities Space Research Association

Position/Title: Director, SOFIA

PhD institution: University of California, Berkeley, 1991

Areas of scientific interest:

Cosmic Backgrounds; Nearby Galaxies; Diffuse Interstellar Medium; Supernova Remnants; White Dwarf Planets; Comets; Zodiacal Light

AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- Not yet—this is my first time to stand for such a position.

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- Member, Lunar Legacy Program, SOFIA, 2021 – 2024
- Member, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee, USRA, 2021 – 2024
- Planck Scientist, 2009 – 2018
- Member, Surveying the Agents of Galaxy Evolution team, 2002 – 2008
- Deputy Head of Science staff, IPAC, 2001 – 2004

Statement:

I offer myself as a candidate to the U.S. National Committee for the International Astronomical Union. International collaboration is the cornerstone of world peace and justice. Science should be a shining example of cooperation because our main goal is the search for truth and improving our understanding of the universe. Ever since I was a kid living across the river from the United Nations headquarters, I've been inspired by the size and diversity of the wider world of nations. A career in astronomy took me to Japan, Germany, France, England, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Korea, Taiwan, and Mexico for business trips. I also lived and worked in another country, when I was a postdoc in France, so I empathize with the experience that is shared by many of our scientists who came to the U.S. from other countries for either temporary postdoc-like positions or for their careers.

I have served in leadership roles in the observatories and organizations I've worked in, including career coaching scientists and engineers from student through retirement phases. It will be my pleasure to join and work with the USNC to ensure our scientists are represented and to bring international Symposia back to the United States.