

1. Message from TOS President, Martin Visbeck

Many of us are accustomed to meeting with colleagues at annual or biennial scientific conferences such as the Ocean Sciences Meeting. However, there is something very special about convening once a decade to celebrate progress made over the past ten years and to discuss ambition and opportunities for the next decade. The [OceanObs'19](#) conference (16-20 September 2019) is one such event, and TOS is proud to be sponsoring this effort.

The OceanObs'19 conference is a community-driven conference. That means it is our conference organized by those contributing to and benefitting from (sustained) ocean observing. Our ocean observing system is constantly growing in capability and is serving an increasing number of scientific and societal needs. The first conference, OceanObs'99, articulated an open ocean observing system focusing on the global scale and largely covered the physical domain. Programs such as Argo, basin-scale hydrography (today GO-SHIP) and the moored buoy networks in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans (TAO and PIRATA), as well as global satellite altimetry were at the center of the discussion. OceanObs'09 expanded the ambition to include ocean chemistry and a few elements of ocean biology. It also became clear that a more systematic and strategic approach was needed to advance ocean observing and the Framework for Ocean Observing was developed post conference and supported by the sponsors.

OceanObs'19 has articulated an even grander ambition. We want to make sure that the developments of the ocean observing system are fully responsive to user needs and that international partnerships, platforms, and increased benefit sharing will be realized. Moreover, there is a need to revisit and possibly refine the governance arrangements for ocean observing recognizing the importance and opportunities for increased coordination at the basin scale.

Over that last few months, the conference organizers have solicited input from the community in the form of Community White Papers. These documents will help shape strategy development throughout the conference and for the upcoming decade. The conference will revolve around 10 vital societal benefit themes and the [conference objectives](#). Additional input can be given at the conference by presenting a poster, participating in discussions, and holding topical workshops associated with the conference in Hawaii.

I encourage you to engage, learn more about the conference, and see how its objectives align with your own research interests. If you plan on attending, please note that the early registration (at a reduced rate) as well as the poster abstract submission deadline is March 1, 2019. More information is available [here](#). I stand ready to respond to questions, suggestions or concerns that you might have about the conference, while at the same time I am sure that TOS membership will engage and see value in this community-based approach.

2. TOS Council Election Results

The TOS Council election has concluded and we are pleased to welcome the following new Council Members:

President-Elect: Andone Lavery, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

At-Large: Richard Crout, Naval Research Lab

Geological Oceanography: Amelia Shevenell, University of South Florida

Student Representative: Christina Hernández, MIT/WHOI Joint Program

A full list of TOS Council members and officers is available [here](#).

3. Munk Award Nominations due March 31st

Nominations for the Walter Munk Award recognizing excellence in distinguished research in oceanography related to sound and the sea are due **March 31**. Details on the nomination procedure are available [here](#).

TOS is making great strides toward fulfilling its [mission](#) as we grow to represent more members of the oceanographic community worldwide. Please invite your colleagues to [join](#) by forwarding them [this link](#) to the membership page. If you would like to support TOS initiatives and programs, please consider [contributing](#) by following [this link](#).

Please contact Jenny Ramarui (jenny@tos.org), TOS Executive Director, with any questions about items in this message or your membership.