

Editorial

Conference Proceedings of the AAVSO

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With the 110th meeting in November 2021, the AAVSO is pleased to launch a series of conference proceedings, tentatively entitled *Conference Proceedings of the AAVSO*. It will be an electronic publication that will be separate from *JAAVSO*.

Those who would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting are invited, as usual, to submit abstracts; see <https://www.aavso.org/110-annual-meeting-oral-abstracts>. Abstracts will be published in a companion publication to the *Proceedings*, no longer in *JAAVSO*. If a submitted abstract is accepted, the author will be invited— but not required—to submit a full paper to be published in the *Proceedings*. In this way, the excellent science presented at AAVSO meetings will have a wider audience than at present: readers who are unable to attend meetings will have access to a more complete description of the research than the abstracts can convey.

The ability to publish in the *Proceedings* will provide authors with the opportunity to develop their ideas about their research results in preparation for the meeting. Interested authors will be well advised to sketch out the full article before submitting the abstract, since the deadline for the paper will be only two weeks after the abstract deadline. In doing so, they will be able to clarify and, perhaps, extend their ideas. There will be opportunities to revise both the submitted abstract and the submitted conference manuscript before publication.

Whether or not presenters choose to submit a conference paper, AAVSO meetings represent an opportunity for members

to present their research results to peers/colleagues before submitting those results to *JAAVSO* for refereeing. Scientific feedback or questions from those at the meeting are likely to lead to an improved paper and a better refereeing process. Additional benefit would come from writing a conference paper, because input from the AAVSO editorial staff will enable improvements in manuscripts.

Conference presenters will be encouraged to develop their papers further for submission to peer review for *JAAVSO*. In the astronomical profession, it is not unusual to submit the same work as both a (usually curated but not refereed) conference report, published in a conference proceedings volume, and a refereed journal article. The peer-reviewed version usually has higher status. In case the conference report comes first, meeting attendees get a preview of the eventual journal article with opportunities to ask questions and comment on the research. Sometimes the conference report is a summary of an already-published paper; in this case, the author still learns from questions and comments from the audience.

Usually, the two written descriptions of the work are not identical. The refereed version contains more detail, more graphics than the limited time frame of an oral presentation would permit, and more tabular information.

We at the AAVSO are looking forward to working with our meeting attendees as they participate in this exciting experiment.