



June 5, 2026

Dear Lee, Kristen, Patrick, Cristina, Julie, and the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope team,

This is a report of the first Roman Science Users Panel (RSUP) meeting with the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope (Roman) team held in person at IPAC in Pasadena and over Zoom on May 5, 2026. At this meeting we heard updates on the project timeline, hardware status, and statistics from the Cycle 1 Call for Proposals. We were provided with an overview of the Roman community engagement efforts as well as future plans for supporting the science community and setting community expectations.

We are impressed with the multifaceted work of the Roman team and their dedication to making Roman a success. Roman is about to transform astronomy and our understanding of the universe, and that transformation is due in large part to the efforts of this innovative team. The community is deeply appreciative of the new opportunities we will have to do our science.

The goals of the Roman team and those of the RSUP are clearly aligned: to enable the science community to make transformative discoveries with this incredible new observatory. Following what we heard and discussed at this meeting, our recommendations to the Roman team are as follows:

Community Engagement & Communication:

1. The RSUP appreciates the many forms of information transfer the Roman team is using (e.g., RDox, webinars, Helpdesk, blogs, etc.) and does not see a need for additional channels of communication.
2. In an effort to unify these different forms of communication, the RSUP suggests a clear central location where the most important updates are shared. This could be in the form of a "Late Breaking News" list like those on the JWST and HST Call for Proposals pages.
3. If possible, consolidate email communications rather than having many separate email lists for separate types of announcements. If that's not possible, consider making a webpage that explains the multiple email list options and include a link to this explainer page at the bottom of all emails.
4. Continue with plans to provide detailed documentation for data analysis pipelines.
5. Plan to update the community regularly on the status of commissioning. Given the mid-February deadline for Cycle 2, we suggest a cadence of every 1-2 weeks and prioritization of releasing as much performance data as possible before the end of the year.
6. In the planned communication of Cycle 1 results, include information on the pressure in different size and science categories, as well as what impact these statistics will have on the Cycle 2 categories and distribution of funding. For example, revisit the science categories based on the Cycle 1 proposal statistics to see if any can be consolidated or more narrowly defined.



7. Provide clear communication of the timeline for the availability of different data products (e.g., spectra vs catalog data).

User Tools

8. The Roman team is well aware that there is uncertainty in the community about Roman Research Nexus (RRN) credits and the related calculations. If possible, consider moving the request for RRN credits to a Phase II stage submission.
9. Clarify for the broader science community the timeline and expectations for tools provided by the Project Infrastructure Teams (PITs). Of particular relevance will be whether or not these tools will be delivered in time for general users to prepare their proposals.
10. Encourage the PIT/Wide Field Science (WFS) teams to document their tools and timelines.
11. Consider a repository for community-provided code, potentially hosted by MAST.
12. In preparation for Cycle 2, at the earliest stage possible after the start of commissioning, provide a sample of imaging and spectroscopic (prism+grism) data along with a tutorial for how to use them. These types of “first look” observations will support the community in their preparations for the Cycle 2 call. Provide a timeline for when these observations will be available.
13. Provide simulation tools for users to work with spectroscopic data (PRISM and GRISM) in preparation for Cycle 2.
14. Provide the community with an update on eventual access to wavefront sensor telemetry relevant to CGI post processing.

The entire science community is impressed with a space telescope project that is launching ahead of schedule and under-budget, and we await with enthusiasm the launch and the start of commissioning and science operations.

Sincerely,

The Roman Science User Panel

Sabrina Stierwalt, Occidental College (co-chair)

Casey Papovich, Texas A&M (co-chair)

Hakim Atek, Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris

Tansu Daylan, Washington University in St. Louis

Kishalay De, Columbia University

Charles Kilpatrick, Northwestern University

Adam Kraus, University of Texas, Austin

Elisabeth Krause, University of Arizona

Karen Masters, Haverford College

Michael Meyer, University of Michigan

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