



Planetary Sciences

July 2019 Newsletter

Greetings from Your Planetary Sciences Section Leadership!

Fall Meeting 2019 promises to be an exciting one! We are working on a special program for all the "Beyond Earth" sections (which includes Planetary) for Wednesday of that week. More details later. Abstract submissions for Fall Meeting will close on 31 July!

Congratulations to the NASA Dragonfly team on being selected as the next New Frontiers mission!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Fall Meeting,

Rosaly Lopes, President

Michael Mischna, President-elect

David Williams, Secretary

Sam Birch, Early Career Representative

Ashley Schoenfeld, Student Representative

Sarah Stewart, Past President

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

For the latest Planetary Sciences updates and events, visit the section calendar.

Upcoming Deadlines

- ROSES-2019: Planetary Data Archiving, Restoration and Tools, Step-2 proposals: 11 July 2019
- ROSES-2019: Cassini Data Analysis, Step-2 proposals: 18 July 2019
- ROSES-2019: Planetary Science and Technology Through Analog Research, Step-1 proposals: 25 July 2019

- ROSES-2019: New Frontiers Data Analysis, proposals: 1 August 2019

Upcoming Conferences

- **7–12 July:** 82nd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society, Sapporo, Japan
- **14–18 July:** The Pluto System After New Horizons, Laurel, Md.
- **15–17 July:** Lunar in Situ Resource Utilization Workshop 2019, Columbia, Md.
- **22–25 July:** 9th International Conference on Mars, Pasadena, Calif.
- **23–25 July:** NASA Exploration Science Forum 2019, Moffett Field, Calif.
- **26 July:** Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) Meeting, Pasadena, Calif.
- **28 July to 2 August:** 16th Annual Asia Oceania Geosciences Society Meeting, Singapore
- **7–9 August:** 10th Planetary Crater Consortium, Flagstaff, Ariz.
- **20–21 August:** Outer Planets Assessment Group (OPAG) Meeting, Boulder, Colo.

Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

1. Rocky Exoplanets in the Era of JWST: Theory and Observation (2nd Annual NASA Goddard SEEC Symposium)

Dates: 4–8 November 2019

Location: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

The goal of this meeting is to bring together theorists and observers interested in rocky exoplanets from across the exoplanet community and related fields, to help us all prepare for the first light of the James Webb Space Telescope era by framing the key questions about these worlds and the exciting new observations that will help us characterize them.

The workshop will include invited overview talks combined with short research presentations, as well as ample time for group discussion and collaborative work sessions. **The website for registration and abstracts for combined poster+flash talks will open at the beginning of August.** Attendance will be limited by space, so please check out the meeting's web page and preregister now. We will alert you when the full registration and abstract submission pages are available.

The symposium will be hosted by the GSFC Sellers Exoplanet Environments Collaboration (SEEC) and cosupported by the University of Maryland Astronomy Department.

Website with preregistration and a full list of session topics and current invited speakers: <https://seec.gsfc.nasa.gov/Symposium.html>

2. ESA Research Fellowships in Space Science

The European Space Agency (ESA) awards several postdoctoral fellowships each year. The aim of these fellowships is to provide scientists in their early career, holding a Ph.D. or equivalent degree, with the means of performing research in fields related to the ESA Science Programme.

Areas of research include planetary science, astronomy and astrophysics, solar and solar-terrestrial science, plasma physics, and fundamental physics. The fellowships have a duration of 2 years, with the possible extension to 3 years, and are tenable at the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in Noordwijk, Netherlands, or at the European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC) in Villafranca del Castillo, near Madrid, Spain.

Applications are now solicited for fellowships in space science to begin in the fall of 2020. Preference will be given to applications submitted by candidates in an early stage of their career. Candidates not yet holding a Ph.D. are encouraged to apply, but they must provide evidence of having received their degree before starting the fellowship.

ESA fellows are enrolled in ESA's Social Security Scheme, which covers medical expenses. A monthly deduction covers these short-term and long-term risks.

The deadline for applications is 1 October 2019.

More information on ESA Research Fellowships in Space Science, on conditions and eligibility, as well as the application form can be retrieved from

<https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/science-faculty/research-fellowship>

Questions on the scientific aspects of ESA Research Fellowships in Space Science not answered above can be sent by email to the fellowship coordinators, Dr. Oliver Jennrich or Dr. Jan-Uwe Ness, at the address fellowship@cosmos.esa.int.

3. The Venera-D Landing Sites and Cloud Habitability Workshop

Dates: 2–5 October 2019

Location: Space Research Institute (IKI) in Moscow, Russia

The purpose of this workshop is to gather community input on (1) the criteria for scientifically desirable landing sites at Venus for the Venera-D lander and (2) the best measurements and measurement methods that can advance our understanding of Venus's habitability, present and past.

Abstracts related to these four categories are requested: (1) landing site target priorities, (2) habitability and biospecies survival (current research and theory), (3) surface/atmosphere/biospecies instrumentation and sampling systems, and (4) laboratory studies.

Abstract deadline: 10 August 2019

Some travel support is available for U.S.-based scientists. Please email notifications of interest by 21 June 2019 to venera-d@cosmos.ru, subject: JSDT 2019 Workshop (category of interest). Please include in the body of your email message the abstract title, requests for travel support (if needed), and your availability to volunteer as a meeting scribe. **Requests for travel support will be provided on a case by case basis, pending abstract acceptance.**

<https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/venera-d2019/>

4. Second Announcement: *Icarus* Special Issue on the Pluto System, Kuiper Belt, and Kuiper Belt Objects

Deadline: 15 September 2019

Icarus is sponsoring a special issue on results related to the exploration of the Pluto system, the Kuiper Belt, and Kuiper Belt Objects, particularly by New Horizons, ground-based techniques, and NASA New Frontiers Data Analysis Program (NFDAP) projects. Papers are solicited from authors across the planetary science community.

Deadline: 15 September 2019 for this special issue

For more information, contact

Alan Stern
Principal Investigator, New Horizons
Rosaly Lopes
Editor, *Icarus*

5. Subject Matter Expert Reviewer of Proposals Submitted to NASA

Cornell Technical Services LLC (CTS) is a support contractor to NASA.

CTS seeks Subject Matter Experts with significant experience in the design, development, and operations of missions, spacecraft, and instruments relevant to NASA's goals. We help NASA evaluate proposals and review programs for investigations intended to help answer the big questions of Earth science, heliophysics, planetary science, and astrophysics.

As a CTS part-time employee or consultant, you will participate as a Subject Matter Expert on review teams conducting in-depth technical, management, and cost assessments of proposals and Phase A concept studies. Our work is performed remotely, with travel occurring periodically during the assignment to bring the geographically distributed teams together to finalize results. An ideal candidate is willing and able to work part-time on an as-needed basis to support the tasks and has significant direct, hands-on build and spaceflight technical or management responsibility in one or more of the following areas:

- Flight systems
- Mission design and operations, including trajectory analysis
- Design, development, and operation of spacecraft and spacecraft subsystems
- Space-based instruments including passive remote sensors in all wavelengths, active sensors and systems, and in situ instruments for particles and fields or direct material sampling
- Senior systems engineering for either spacecraft or instruments
- Space communications and ground systems development and operations
- Mission leadership as a program or project manager

CTS provides support to the NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD) on the Evaluations, Assessments, Studies Service and Support (EASSS-2) contract by assembling evaluation teams in response to Announcements of Opportunities and other acquisition requests by supporting the Technical, Management, and Cost (TMC) evaluations for NASA acquisitions. The following URL will provide more information: <https://soma.larc.nasa.gov>.

We are currently developing the staffing plans for several upcoming SMD TMC evaluations.

Panel members are compensated for their time and expertise.

For more information, contact us via email at smes@cts-llc.com, visit us online at www.cts-llc.com, or phone 1-757-251-2691.

6. Journal Special Issue: Planetary Exploration of Habitable Environments

The journal *Life* (ISSN 2075-1729) is currently running a special issue entitled "Planetary Exploration of Habitable Environments." Prof. Dr. Dirk Schulze-Makuch of the Technical University of Berlin (Berlin, Germany) and Dr. Alberto G. Fairén of the Centro de Astrobiología (Madrid, Spain) and Cornell University (Ithaca, N.Y., USA) are serving as guest editors for this issue.

Submission deadline: 15 October 2019

For further reading, please follow the link to the special issue website at https://www.mdpi.com/si/life/Planetary_Exploration.

For further details on the submission process, please see the instructions for authors at the journal website: <http://www.mdpi.com/journal/life/instructions>.

7. 10th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting

Location: U.S. Geological Survey, Flagstaff, Ariz.

Date: 7–9 August 2019

The 10th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting will be held 7–9 August 2019 at the U.S. Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Ariz. The Planetary Crater Consortium is open to all planetary scientists interested in any aspect of impact cratering on solar system bodies (including Earth!), incorporating observational, theoretical, experimental, field, and/or numerical studies. The meeting is a combination of contributed talks, posters, and open discussion and is designed to encourage and provide adequate time for in-depth discussion of crater-related issues and topics to enhance research collaborations. Abstract deadline was Monday, 24 June 2019. An optional field trip around the rim of Meteor Crater will be arranged for Saturday, 10 August 2019, if there is sufficient interest.

Contact: Nadine G. Barlow, nadine.barlow@nau.edu

8. Outstanding Student Paper Award Volunteers Needed

Outstanding Student Presentation Award (OSPA) coordinators and Student Travel Grant reviewers are needed. If interested, please reply to this message with your name, email, and the position(s) you are willing to volunteer for. More information on each volunteer position is below.

OSPA Coordinators Needed

The [Outstanding Student Presentation Award \(OSPA\)](#) program helps students gain valuable feedback about their presentation skills and scientific research. The Planetary Sciences Section needs at least two coordinators to help encourage volunteers to participate as judges. The time commitment is minimal (about .5-1 hour per week through mid-January).

OSPA coordinator duties include the following:

- Manage the effort to secure judges for students within Section
- Encourage judges to sign up via direct email, Section newsletters, websites, or other communications
- Assist OSPA liaisons in recruiting judges
- Encourage judges to enter their scores by the deadline
- Participate in the selection of OSPA winners within Section
- Commit about 0.5 to one hour per week, starting in November 2019 through January 2020.

Volunteers must be AGU members but do not have to attend Fall Meeting. Student members cannot volunteer as OSPA coordinators.

Student Travel Grant Reviewers Needed

The [Student Travel Grant](#) program helps underrepresented students and those with financial need attend the AGU Fall Meeting. The Planetary Sciences Section needs volunteers to serve as reviewers for this year's solicitation. The review period will take place the last few weeks of August. Volunteers will review around 5 submissions. Each submission will take approximately 15 minutes to read and score.

Volunteers must be AGU members but do not have to attend the Fall Meeting. Student members cannot volunteer as Student Travel Grant reviewers.