



February 2020 Newsletter

Greetings from your Planetary Sciences section leadership! One of the greatest pleasures of being in the section leadership is congratulating colleagues who have been selected for AGU awards.

Nominations for 2020 AGU Union awards; Fellows, medals, and prizes; and section and focus group awards, are now open. We urge you to take this opportunity to nominate a student, colleague, peer, or mentor whose achievements have made a difference in the Earth and space sciences.

[Union Fellows](#), [Section Award and Lectures](#), and [Union Medals, Awards, and Prizes](#)

Ronald Greeley Early Career Award in Planetary Science

Established in 2012, the Ronald Greeley Early Career Award in Planetary Science is given annually to one honoree (no more than 6 years postdegree) in recognition of significant early-career contributions to planetary science. This award is named in honor of AGU Fellow Ronald Greeley for his influential contributions to training and mentoring planetary scientists.

Whipple Award

Established in 1989, the Whipple Award is given annually to one honoree in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of planetary science. This award is named in honor of AGU Fellow Fred Whipple, a gifted astronomer most noted for his work on comets. The Whipple Award includes an opportunity to present an invited lecture during the AGU Fall Meeting, held each year in San Francisco, Calif. The Whipple Lecture is webcast and made available as an archived presentation on the AGU website.

AGU Fellows

This honor is given to individual AGU members who have made exceptional scientific contributions and attained acknowledged eminence in the fields of Earth and space science. Since the establishment of the AGU Fellows program in 1962 and in accordance with AGU

bylaws, no more than 0.1% of the total membership of AGU is recognized annually. The current list of Fellows is [here](#).

Also, send us announcements that you'd like shared with section members!

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-2020: Released by NASA: On or about 15 February 2020

Upcoming Conferences

- **5–6 February:** Exoplanets in Our Backyard, Houston, Texas
- **11–13 February:** Lunar and Planetary Institute Workshop: The Impact of Lunar Dust on Human Exploration, Houston, Texas
- **18–21 February:** 3rd International Planetary Caves Conference, San Antonio, Texas
- **25–27 February:** Access to Space Workshop, Laurel, Md.
- **2–8 March:** 36th International Geological Congress (IGC), Delhi, India
- **16–20 March:** 51st Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC), The Woodlands, Texas

Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

1. NASA Postdoctoral Fellowship: Application Deadline, 1 March 2020

The NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP) offers U.S. and international scientists the opportunity to advance their research while contributing to NASA's scientific goals. NPP supports fundamental

science; explores the undiscovered; promotes intellectual growth; and encourages scientific connections.

Selected by a competitive peer review process, NPP Fellows complete 1- to 3-year fellowship appointments that advance NASA's missions in Earth science, heliophysics, planetary science, astrophysics, space bioscience, aeronautics and engineering, human exploration and space operations, and astrobiology.

Current NPP research opportunities in planetary science can be viewed [NPP Planetary Science Research Opportunities](#).

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in hand before beginning the fellowship, but they may apply while completing the degree requirements. U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and foreign nationals eligible for J-1 status as a research scholar may apply.

Stipends start at \$60,000 per year, with supplements for high-cost-of-living areas and for certain academic specialties. Financial assistance is available for relocation and health insurance, and \$10,000 per year is provided for professional travel.

Applications are accepted three times each year: **1 March**, 1 July, and 1 November.

For further information and to apply, please click [HERE](#).

Questions: npphelp@usra.edu

2. COSPAR Session 20-B1.3: Results from the Exploration of the Kuiper Belt by NASA's New Horizons Mission

We call your attention and invite contributed talks for the COSPAR 2020 session on "Results from the Exploration of the Kuiper Belt by NASA's New Horizons Mission."

Meeting: 43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly, 15–22 August 2020, Sydney, N. S. W., Australia

Website: <https://www.cospar-assembly.org/>

Abstract submission: Open now through 14 February 2020

This session will review and extend the scientific results obtained from the exploration of Kuiper belt object 2014 MU69 (Arrokoth) by NASA's New Horizons mission. Topics will include the color, composition, bulk properties, geology, and origin of MU69, including its cratering record, with the objective of understanding the formation of Kuiper belt planetesimals. The session will also examine the loss of primordial volatiles from MU69, its space weathering evolution, the Kuiper belt radiation

and dust environment, and observations of dwarf planets and other Kuiper belt objects to assess satellite populations, phase curves, rotational light curves, and shapes, and to otherwise place MU69 in context.

Scientific Organizing Committee: Alan Stern, Dale Cruikshank, Michele Bannister, Cynthia Conrad, J. J. Kavelaars, Alessandro Morbidelli, Catherine Olkin, Bernard Schmitt, Kelsi Singer, John Spencer, Anne Verbiscer, and Harold Weaver

3. Research Scientist (Assistant, Associate, or Full): Senior Fellow, Space Sciences Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley

The Space Sciences Laboratory (SSL) at the University of California, Berkeley invites applications from Ph.D. scientists who have demonstrated leadership and creativity in the space sciences. SSL currently has active science groups in solar and heliospheric physics, geospace science, astrophysics and exoplanets, and planetary science/astrobiology. The position is open to scientists who have research programs related to one of these groups or potentially on a topic that may lead to the establishment of a new science group (e.g., Earth and atmospheric science). Scientists engaged in instrument and/or mission development are especially encouraged to apply. The successful applicant will have principal investigator status upon joining SSL, and the level of the appointment (assistant, associate, or full research scientist) will depend on CV and qualifications. While the applicant is expected to build a self-supporting research group, start-up funds will be provided. It is expected that the applicant will have a previous record of participating in or leading successful projects or proposals. If the applicant's research falls under one of the existing SSL science groups, the associate director of the science group will be the applicant's formal supervisor. Otherwise, the applicant will report to the SSL director. The appointment is open-ended contingent on funding. **A start date of between August and October 2020 is envisioned, but this is flexible.** This is a full-time position. Basic qualifications (required at the time of application):

- Ph.D. (or equivalent international degree) or enrolled in a Ph.D. (or equivalent international degree) program

Additional qualifications (required by the start date):

- Ph.D. (or equivalent international degree)
- Record of research publications since Ph.D. degree

Preferred:

- Ph.D. or equivalent in physics, astronomy, Earth science, planetary science, or a closely related field
- Demonstrated experience participating in or leading successful projects or proposals in the space sciences

Salary and benefits: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience level and based on UC Berkeley salary scales. This position provides full benefits. The university provides a

comprehensive benefits program that offers medical, dental, vision, life, and AD&D insurance; short-term disability insurance; and long-term disability insurance. For a complete guide to UC health benefits for staff, please click [Here](#).

To apply, please click [Here](#).

Applicants should also provide names with contact information for at least three individuals who have agreed to provide a reference for this specific position. Letters of reference will be requested of the finalists. All letters will be treated as confidential per University of California policy and California state law. Please refer potential referees, including when letters are provided via a third party (i.e., dossier service or career center), to the [UC Berkeley statement of confidentiality](#) prior to submitting their letters.

Position will remain open until filled.

Please direct questions to [Caylen Garrie](#).

University statement: The department is interested in candidates who will contribute to diversity and equal opportunity in higher education through their work.

Family friendly statement: UC Berkeley has an excellent benefits package as well as a number of policies and programs to support employees as they balance work and family.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or protected veteran status. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy, click [Here](#).

4. Lunar Exploration Analysis Group Virtual Meeting, 7 February

This meeting showcases NASA's current portfolio of missions, instruments, and concepts for the Moon. Invited missions and instrument activities include selected and funded activities in DALI, NPLP, LSITP, SIMPLEX, Artemis-1, LDEP, and PCMS.

Schedule and dial-in information can be found [Here](#).

There is no scheduled break, so please feel free to step out and rejoin as you need to. We encourage you to set up conference rooms at your institution to participate with your colleagues.