



Planetary Sciences

## September 2020 Newsletter

### Greetings from Your Planetary Sciences Section Leadership!

The Program committee is hard at work preparing the [Fall Meeting](#) program virtually. Sincere thanks to our Planetary Section representatives, David Williams, Conor Nixon, and Padma Yanamandra-Fisher for their efforts. This is a hard job even at an in-person program meeting, this year they have the extra complexity of meeting virtually.

The Whipple and Greeley awards, and the Shoemaker lecture have been selected and will be announced soon, as will be the new AGU Fellows. Sincere thanks to our hard-working Honors Committee: Mike Flasar (Chair), Mark Simons, Roger Yelle, Bonnie Buratti, Michele Dougherty, and Jeff Cuzzi.

We look forward to an awesome (if different) Fall AGU,

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, please visit the section calendar.

**Upcoming Deadlines** (Delays because of COVID-19 National Emergency are in RED)

- ROSES-2020: Planetary Instrument Concepts for the Advancement of Solar System Observations (PICASSO), Step-1 proposals: Due 18 September 2020.
- ROSES-2020: Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Participating Scientist Program, Step-2: **Due 24 September 2020.**
- ROSES-2020: Mars Data Analysis, Step-1 proposals: Due 25 September 2020.

**Upcoming Conferences (2020)** (NOTE All August conferences made virtual because of COVID-19)

- **21 Sep-9 Oct:** EuroPlanet Science Conference (EPSC) [virtual meeting]

## Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

### 1. Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology: Call for White Papers (New Deadlines)

The Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology was formally initiated by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on 20 March.

A website for the submission of whitepapers has been established and can both be accessed via the main decadal [survey website](#).

**Deadline** for the submission of **ALL OTHER** white papers (e.g., the state of the profession, infrastructure, interaction with human space exploration, etc.) is **15 September 2020**.

### 2. Call for Papers for a Special Section of *JGR-Planets* titled “Exoplanets: The Nexus of Astronomy and Geoscience”

AGU Guest Editors: Cayman Unterborn (Arizona State University), Laura Schaefer (Stanford University), Eliza Kempton (University of Maryland), Seth Jacobson (Michigan State University).

In recent years, our knowledge about exoplanets has expanded tremendously. From super-Earths to water worlds, Hot Jupiters to mini-Neptunes, exoplanets represent a diversity of worlds well beyond that of our solar system. The field of exoplanets is moving from an era of discovering exoplanets to understanding their populations and characterizing individual exoplanets in detail. Doing this, however, requires a monumental interdisciplinary effort, bringing together astronomers, geoscientists, and planetary scientists including observers, theorists, and experimentalists. In this special section of *JGR: Planets*, we wish to bring together authors from across each of these disciplines to present results of interest to the wider exoplanet field and cross these traditional disciplinary boundaries.

As part of the special section, all papers will be published with **Gold open access at extra no charge**.

Submissions are now being accepted and will be on a rolling basis until **30 September 2020**.

Manuscripts are to be submitted through the [AGU website](#).

### **3. NASA Postdoctoral Fellowship: Application Deadline, 1 November 2020**

The NASA Postdoctoral Program offers the 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 [here](#).

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in hand before beginning the fellowship but 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, visit:

<https://npp.usra.edu/>.

Questions: [npphelp@usra.edu](mailto:npphelp@usra.edu)

### **4. Invitation to Participate in a NASA Working Group on Exoplanets**

The NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program in the Astrophysics Division is establishing a new science working group related to astronomical observations of exoplanets. We are seeking additional

members of the group, and we wish to invite members of the AGU Planetary Sciences Section to participate.

Our group is Science Analysis Group (SAG) 22, established by the NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program, in the Astrophysics Division. The SAG will be examining the set of possible stars that will be intensively observed by upcoming NASA facilities to gather all relevant physical and observational properties of the host stars to make sure that the future observations will yield the best science possible. We ultimately aim to propose a catalog of stellar properties to be built and maintained by NASA to incorporate this key information for long-term exoplanet science.

The SAG is a volunteer group which anyone may join, and is being led by Joshua Pepper (Lehigh U), Natalie Hinkel (SwRI), Chris Stark (STScI). We do not have funding to distribute, but these groups can be good opportunities especially for junior people such as graduate students and postdocs to get involved in NASA science and network with others in the field. We especially welcome scientists and students from underrepresented groups, and those at small institutions and MSIs. This SAG begins work in August 2020 and will conclude its work and issue a report before the end of 2021. See more information about our goals and a link to join the SAG [here](#).

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Our contact info is on the website linked above.

Josh, Natalie, and Chris

## **5. NASA Expands Planet Contract to All Researchers**

NASA has expanded their subscription with Planet to provide access to Planet imagery to all researchers receiving funding from NASA for their work. Planet acquires near-daily coverage of the entire landmass of the Earth at 3–5 m through its constellation of ~150 satellites, totalling over 13 TB of imagery downlinked every day. Through the agreement with NASA, all NASA-funded researchers can access imagery from the PlanetScope constellation (subject to 30 day latency unless otherwise approved by NASA), as well as the RapidEye 6.5 m archive. Each user is granted an initial 5 million sq km quota, with exceptions made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of NASA.

For more information on this program and instructions on how to gain access, please visit the NASA Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Program (CSDAP) [website](#).

For any university-based researchers interested in Planet data access but not funded by NASA, data access is available through the [Planet Education and Research Program](#). The Basic program provides free access to 5,000 sq km of PlanetScope and RapidEye imagery per month per user. For larger scale access, departmental and campus licenses are also available.

For any questions about data access through Planet's NASA or Education and Research Programs, contact [Dr. Tanya Harrison](#).