



Planetary Sciences

## August 2020 Newsletter

Greetings from your Planetary Sciences Section Leadership!

Preparations for our online Fall Meeting **#AGU2020** continue. The meeting will be different but still exciting. AGU has received almost 20,000 abstracts. We all will miss going to San Francisco, but we can look forward to New Orleans in 2021.

Section honors will be announced soon. Thank you to everyone who wrote nominations and letters of support. We had an excellent slate of candidates for the Whipple and Greeley Awards and the Shoemaker Lecture, as well as for AGU Fellows.

Student Travel Grants will be different this year, and we hope to provide registration assistance to as many students as possible. Given the relatively low cost of attendance, we hope to have increased participation from students and others for whom the cost of attending Fall Meeting might be prohibitive.

Also to be announced soon are nominees for the offices of president-elect and secretary of the Planetary Sciences section. Please vote when AGU sends out the ballot information.

Hoping everyone stays well and safe,

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)

- **4 August:** GSA 2020 Connects Online abstracts due [virtual annual meeting]
- **12 August:** DPS 2020 abstracts due [virtual annual meeting]
- **ROSES-2020:** Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Participating Scientist Program, NOI: Due 10 August 2020
- **ROSES-2020:** Discovery Data Analysis, Step-1 proposals: Due 28 August 2020
- **ROSES-2020:** New Frontiers Data Analysis, Step-1 proposals: Due 3 September 2020

### Upcoming Conferences (2020) (NOTE All August conferences are virtual because of COVID-19)

- **Aug 5-7:** 11th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting [virtual meeting]
- **31 August to 3 September:** Human to Mars Summit [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](#).

- The deadline for the submission of **Science** white papers was **15 July 2020**.
- The deadline for the submission of **Mission Concept** white papers is **15 August 2020**.
- The 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. Venus Science Today, a Mini-Zoom Conference from 31 August to 3 September 2020**

We invite you to consider attending and/or contributing a talk to Venus Science Today, a mini-Zoom conference. Venus Science Today will showcase talks about Venus research published in the past 12 months, or work in progress. The conference will take place over 4 days, but only 2 hours per day to allow simultaneous participation from Europe, the United States, and East Asia.

Conference details can be found [here](#).

If you wish to contribute a talk, you can register [here](#).

This virtual conference is cohosted remotely by the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and the Akatsuki Science Team.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

SOC Members (Michael Way, Kandi Jessup, Cedric Gillmann, and Takehiko Satoh)

#### **4. 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 in the [NPP Planetary Science Research Opportunities](#).

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 [this webpage](#).

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