



Planetary Sciences

August 2019 Newsletter

Greetings from Your Planetary Sciences Section Leadership!

More than 27,000 abstracts were submitted for Fall Meeting 2019! During the first week of September, your PSS representatives will be at the Program Committee meeting to organize oral and poster sessions.

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: Mars Data Analysis, Step-1 proposals: 22 August 2019
- ROSES-2019: Discovery Data Analysis, Step-1 proposals: 29 August 2019

Upcoming Conferences

- **7–9 August:** 10th Planetary Crater Consortium, Flagstaff, Ariz.
- **20–21 August:** Outer Planets Assessment Group (OPAG) Meeting, Boulder, Colo.

- **8–12 September:** The First Billion Years: Habitability: Producing Conditions Conducive to Life, Big Sky, Mont.
- **10–12 September:** NASEM's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS), Irvine, Calif.
- **15–20 September:** Joint European Planetary Science Congress–Division for Planetary Sciences (EPSC–DPS) Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
- **22–25 September:** Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Ariz.
- **23–25 September:** Titan After Cassini–Huygens Workshop, Madrid, Spain
- **30 September to 3 October:** Large Meteorite Impacts and Planetary Evolution VI, Brasilia, Brazil

Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

1. NASA Postdoctoral Fellowship: Application Deadline, 1 November 2019

The NASA Postdoctoral Program offers U.S. and international scientists the opportunity to advance their research while contributing to NASA's scientific goals. The 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: [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, visit <https://npp.usra.edu/>.

Questions: npphelp@usra.edu

2. 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 cosponsored 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>

3. 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.

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>.