



## April 2020 Newsletter

We hope everyone is staying well and safe during the current COVID-19 crisis. Many conferences and other in-person meetings have been cancelled or moved online, and several deadlines have been delayed (we have tried to capture the most relevant below). AGU staff are now working from home, but are responsive to email should you need to contact them.

The Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal survey website is now open for White Papers submissions (due by July 4). You can find information for Early Career Engagement Opportunities by clicking [HERE](#).

We're hoping we will see many of you at the 2020 AGU Fall Meeting.

Best to All,

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 (NOTE Delays because of COVID-19 Coronavirus National Emergency)

- ROSES-2020: Emerging Worlds, Step-1 proposal: **Due April 17, 2020**
- ROSES-2020: Solar Sys. Observ., Step-1 proposal: **Due April 22, 2020**
- ROSES-2020: Yr. Opp. Res., Planet. Defense, Step-1 proposal: **Due April 22, 2020**

- ROSES-2020: Dev. & Adv. Lunar Instrumentation, Step-1 proposal: **Due April 17, 2020**
- ROSES-2020: Matur. Instr. Solar Sys. Exploration, Step-1 proposal: **Due April 17, 2020**
- ROSES-2020: Exobiology, NOIs: **Due April 22, 2020**
- ROSES-2020: Laboratory Analy. Returned Samples, Step-1 proposal: **Due April 24, 2020**

**Upcoming Conferences (2020)** (NOTE All April conferences postponed, cancelled, or made virtual)

- **Apr. 14-16:** Titan Through Time Workshop V, Boulder, CO [Postponed TBD]
- **Apr. 15-17:** MEPAG Meeting #38, Washington, DC [Virtual Meeting]
- **Apr. 20-24:** Biennial European Astrobiology Conference, Canary Is., Spain [Postponed to 2021]
- **Apr. 28-30:** 2020 In Situ Sci. & Instrum. Wrkshp for Europa & Ocean Worlds, Pasadena, CA [1/2-day VM & Postponed]
- **Apr. 28-30:** Lunar Surface Science Workshop, Denver CO [Postponed TBD]
- **May 3-8:** EGU General Assembly, Vienns, Austria [Postponed to 2021]
- **May 12-15:** 6th Int'l Planetary Dunes Workshop, Alamosa, CO [Postponed to 2021]

## Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

### 1. 2020 NASA Planetary Science Summer School Applications, Due Date April 13

NASA is encouraging applications for its 32nd Annual Planetary Science Summer School (PSSS). PSSS is a 3-month long early career development experience to help prepare the next generation of planetary science and engineering mission leaders as offered by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Participants learn the process of developing a hypothesis-driven robotic space mission in a concurrent engineering environment while getting an in-depth, first-hand look at mission design, life cycle, costs, schedule and the trade-offs inherent in each.

Science and engineering doctoral candidates, recent Ph.D.s, postdocs, junior faculty, and certain master's degree students, who are U.S. Citizens or legal permanent residents (and a very limited number of Foreign Nationals from non-designated counties), are eligible. Applicants from diverse backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply. Partial financial support is available for a limited number of individuals.

**Session 1:** Preparatory Sessions May 18-July 17.  
Culminating Week at JPL July 20-24

**Session 2:** Preparatory Sessions May 18–July 31.

Culminating Week at JPL August 3–7

Roughly equivalent in workload to a rigorous 3-hour graduate-level course, participants spend the first 10 weeks in preparatory webinars acting as a science mission team, prior to spending the final culminating week at JPL being mentored by JPL’s Advance Project Design Team, or “Team X” to refine their planetary science mission concept design, then present it to a mock expert review board.

**Application Deadline:** April 13, 2020. Click [HERE](#) to apply and learn more about the NASA Science Mission Design Schools.

## **2. Obituary: Adam Showman (1968–2020)**

Adam Showman, a Professor of Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona’s Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, passed away suddenly on March 16, 2020. Prof. Showman had a wide range of interests and expertise. Most notably, he was an expert in both the atmospheres and interiors of planets. His atmospheric work concentrated on giant gaseous planets like Jupiter, Saturn and many of the extrasolar planets that have been discovered, while most of his work on interiors dealt with the icy satellites that orbit the Solar System’s giant planets.

Prof. Showman was born in 1968, received his B.S. in Physics from Stanford in 1991, his Ph.D. in Planetary Sciences for the California Institute of Technology in 1999, and later joined LPL in 2001. He published a total of more than 150 scientific papers.

Prof. Showman served as the advisor for eight University of Arizona students who received their Ph.D.s, and as the mentor for six post-doctoral fellows. He was named a Galileo Circle Fellow by the University of Arizona College of Science in 2018, and was named a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 2019.

## **3. Cancellation of NASA Astrobiology Summer School 2020**

We have been monitoring the outbreak and spread of COVID-19 and, after consultation with our partners at the Centro de Astrobiología, we regretfully have come to the conclusion that we must cancel the 2020 Josep Comas i Solà International Astrobiology Summer School. For any students who applied, we thank you for your interest and application, and hope that you will consider participating in next year’s school.

Please also subscribe to the [NASA Astrobiology Program mailing list](#) to be kept up to date with other opportunities.

Rosalyn Lopes (US Director, International Astrobiology Summer School)

#### 4. Five Postdoctoral Positions, Emirates Mars Mission, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

[Due date for applications revised to May 23]

The Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) science team and Khalifa University (KU) are inviting applications for up to 5 postdoctoral research fellowship positions. We seek candidates interested in spacecraft observations and models of the Martian atmosphere (including the upper atmosphere) relevant to EMM observations. EMM will launch in July 2020 and arrive at Mars in early 2021, and carries an imaging system with several visible and UV bandpasses (EXI), a thermal IR spectrometer (EMIRS), and a UV imaging spectrometer (EMUS). Examples of science topics that postdocs may pursue include, but are not limited to:

- Thermal structure of the lower Martian atmosphere
- Clouds and aerosols in the Martian atmosphere
- Atmospheric variability on diurnal, daily, and seasonal timescales
- Vertical transport in the Martian atmosphere
- Structure and composition of the Martian thermosphere
- The hydrogen and oxygen exosphere of Mars
- Thermal and photochemical escape from the Martian atmosphere
- General Circulation Modeling of the Martian atmosphere (including upper atmosphere)

The fellowship is initially for two years, and renewable for up to one additional year. Postdocs will split their time each year between a host institution affiliated with the EMM science team (University of Colorado Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, UC Berkeley Space Sciences Lab, Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Space Sciences Institute, Virginia Tech, and Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique in Paris), and KU in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. While at KU the postdocs will continue their EMM research and participate in the formation of a new space science and technology center. It is anticipated that one or more of the postdocs may be able to transition to a tenure-track faculty position at KU during or after the postdoc period.

Applicants should have met the requirements for a Ph.D. in planetary science, atmospheric physics, or a related field by the end of May 2020. **Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, with review starting May 23.**

We recognize that the effectiveness and creativity of a group is strengthened by contributions from a broad range of perspectives. As such, we welcome candidates from groups that are historically underrepresented in our field.

For more information about EMM please see: <https://www.mbras.ae/EMM>

For more information about Khalifa University please see: <https://www.ku.ac.ae/>

For questions please contact: [KUMarsPostdoc@lasp.colorado.edu](mailto:KUMarsPostdoc@lasp.colorado.edu)

Applicants should submit a letter of interest, a C.V., and the names of three references to <https://jobs.colorado.edu/jobs/JobDetail/?jobId=24229>.

## **5. NASA Postdoctoral Fellowship – Application Deadline July 1, 2020**

The NASA Postdoctoral Program offers US 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 one- to three-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 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: March 1, July 1, and November 1.

For further information and to apply, visit: <https://npp.usra.edu/>

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