



Planetary Sciences

## February 2021 Newsletter

### **Greetings from Your Planetary Sciences Section Leadership!**

With the new year comes a new section leadership team, and we thank you all for giving us the opportunity to serve you and the planetary science community. The only thing missing is YOU! We have a variety of important section activities throughout the year, from mentoring of students and early career colleagues, to honoring and recognizing our colleagues, to planning the Fall meeting, to engaging with the broader AGU on issues of science education and outreach, diversity, equity and inclusion, and solution-based science. These efforts can only succeed with your engagement, and we encourage you to participate where you can. This newsletter will be a source for volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Let us help you find an opportunity about which you are passionate!

Please feel free to reach out to us anytime with your ideas and concerns. We thank you for making AGU the leading Earth and space science professional society in the world!

Michael Mischna, President

Paul Byrne, President-Elect

Jennifer Whitten, Secretary

Sam Birch, Early Career Representative

Ashley Schoenfeld, Student Representative

Rosalyn Lopes, 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 Coronavirus National Emergency in RED)

- ROSES-2021: Will be released on or about February 16, 2021.
  - [Several program will transition to No \(Fixed\) Due Dates \(NoDD\):](#)
    - Emerging Worlds (EW)
    - Solar System Workings (SSW)
    - Planetary Data Archiving, Restoration, and Tools (PDART)
    - Exobiology (ExoBio)
    - Solar System Observations (SSO)
    - Planetary Instrument Concepts for the Advancement of Solar System Observations (PICASSO)
    - Laboratory Analysis of Returned Samples (LARS)
- ROSES-2020: Lunar Data Analysis Program, Step-2 proposals: **Due February 26, 2021.**
- ROSES-2020: Parker Solar Probe Guest Investigators, Step-2 proposals: Due March 17, 2021.
- AGU Honors & Recognition Program: Union and Section Awards: April 15, 2021.

### Upcoming Conferences (2020) (All conferences made virtual because of COVID-19)

- **Feb 22-26, 2021:** Habitable Worlds [**Virtual Meeting**]
- **Feb 24-24, 2021:** Lunar Surface Science Workshop [**Virtual Meeting**]
- **Mar 15-19, 2021:** 52nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference [**Virtual Meeting**]

# Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

1. Thank You to [Ball Aerospace](#) for their Support of the Planetary Sciences Section in 2020!



[Watch Video](#)

## 2. NASA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP – APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2019

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)

### 3. ICON Science

You are invited to join a collaborative team to provide commentaries for a special collection titled “The Power of Many: Opportunities and Challenges of Integrated, Coordinated, Open, and Networked (ICON) Science to Advance Geosciences” to be published in the Earth and Space Science journal, describing approaches in planetary science that embody synthesis, cross-disciplinary integration, and open science across geosciences.

**Learn more about what ICON means and how this special collection will be formed at <https://tinyurl.com/WelcomeICON> or in a recent Eos Vox <https://eos.org/editors-vox/special-collection-on-open-collaboration-across-geosciences>.** Even if the concept of ICON science is new to you, your perspectives and experiences are valuable.

The commentaries will

- (1) describe opportunities and challenges of applying ICON science within and across disciplines
- (2) demonstrate applications and efficacy of successful tools and methods
- (3) elucidate gaps among disciplines in their opportunity and motivation to implement ICON science
- (4) identify opportunities for cross-discipline collaboration, thus reducing the activation energy to apply ICON principles

**You or others can sign up to get involved at <https://forms.gle/zoCYGHKnqcmKa3zP9>.** Writing teams will be finalized in February 2021.

Reach out with questions to [SpecialCollectionICON@gmail.com](mailto:SpecialCollectionICON@gmail.com).

### 4. Arecibo Observatory White Paper Endorsement

The Arecibo Observatory (AO) staff, together with members of the scientific community, prepared the white paper “The Future of the Arecibo Observatory: The Next Generation Arecibo Telescope,” which presents a proposal to replace the legacy 305-m Arecibo telescope with a new, unparalleled instrument that will push forward the boundaries of the Planetary Science, Space and Atmospheric Sciences, and Astronomy for decades to come. The science requirements presented in the white paper were established from discussions with the community that is in overwhelming agreement on the need to build an enhanced, next-generation radar-radio telescope at the AO site.

This white paper will be presented to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and will be shared this month with key stakeholders from both private and public sectors to request support for the construction of the Next Generation Arecibo Telescope (NGAT). The NGAT concept presented here is not intended to be final, but it lays the groundwork for engineering and optical studies to begin.

The community support of this white paper is a crucial factor in the future of AO. Please consider adding your name to the endorsement of this white paper.

To access this White Paper and more related information, click here: [The Next Generation Telescope White Paper](#)

To endorse this white paper, click here: [The Future of Arecibo Endorsement Form](#)