



Planetary Sciences

## January 2020 Newsletter

Greetings from your Planetary Sciences section leadership! We had a very successful AGU Fall Meeting. Thank you to all who submitted sessions, chaired, presented, and attended. We will be back in San Francisco in December.

It is time to submit nominations for AGU's awards and prizes; the deadline to submit for Union Awards, Medals and Prizes as well as AGU Fellows is 15 March. There are many different categories, so please check the AGU website. Do not overlook our section awards, the Ronald Greeley Early Career Award and the Fred Whipple Award. The deadline to submit for our section awards is 15 April. We in the leadership decide on the Shoemaker Lecture, but we will consider your suggestions.

Nomination details are [HERE](#).

A big thank-you to everyone who contributed to the Austin Challenge and enabled more early-career people to attend the meeting. AGU will soon give us the totals of contributions by section.

Also, send us announcements that you'd like to share with section members!

Happy New Year!

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-2020: Released by NASA: On or about 15 February 2020

### Upcoming Conferences

- **13–17 January:** Seventh International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration, Ushuaia, Argentina
- **14–16 January:** NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group Meeting, Pasadena, Calif.
- **20–22 January:** Ice Giant Systems 2020, London, U.K.
- **3–4 February:** NASA Outer Planets Assessment Group Meeting, Houston, Texas
- **5–6 February:** Exoplanets in Our Backyard, Houston, Texas

## Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

### 1. NASA Postdoctoral Fellowship: Application Deadline, 1 March 2020

The NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP) offers 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 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, please click [HERE](#).

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

## **2. COSPAR Session 20-B1.3: Results from the Exploration of the Kuiper Belt by NASA's New Horizons Mission**

We call your attention and invite contributed talks for the COSPAR 2020 session on "Results from the Exploration of the Kuiper Belt by NASA's New Horizons Mission."

**Meeting:** 43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly, 15–22 August 2020, Sydney, N. S. W., Australia

**Website:** <https://www.cospar-assembly.org/>

**Abstract submission:** Open now through 14 February 2020

This session will review and extend the scientific results obtained from the exploration of Kuiper belt object 2014 MU69 (Arrokoth) by NASA's New Horizons mission. Topics will include the color, composition, bulk properties, geology, and origin of MU69, including its cratering record, with the objective of understanding the formation of Kuiper belt planetesimals. The session will also examine the loss of primordial volatiles from MU69, its space weathering evolution, the Kuiper belt radiation and dust environment, and observations of dwarf planets and other Kuiper belt objects to assess satellite populations, phase curves, rotational light curves, and shapes, and to otherwise place MU69 in context.

**Scientific Organizing Committee:** Alan Stern, Dale Cruikshank, Michele Bannister, Cynthia Conrad, J. J. Kavelaars, Alessandro Morbidelli, Catherine Olkin, Bernard Schmitt, Kelsi Singer, John Spencer, Anne Verbiscer, and Harold Weaver