



May 2020 Newsletter

Greetings from your Planetary Sciences section leadership!

We are moving forward with planning AGU Fall Meeting 2020 in San Francisco. We have received 49 session proposals for Planetary Sciences and look forward to a productive and enjoyable meeting. Whether we have an in-person meeting will of course depend on the COVID-19 situation. We expect to have a decision on the meeting format before the abstract deadline.

We remind you all again that the Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023–2032 website is open for white paper submissions (due by 4 July). There is also [information for Early Career Engagement Opportunities](#).

Here's hoping we will see 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, please visit the section calendar.

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

- ROSES-2020: Cassini Data Analysis, Step-1 proposal: Due 7 May 2020
- ROSES-2020: Planetary Data Archiving, Restoration and Tools, Step-1 proposal: Due 15 May 2020

- ROSES-2020: New Frontiers Data Analysis, Step-1 proposal: Due 9 July 2020

Upcoming Conferences (2020) (NOTE All May conferences have been made virtual)

- **4–8 May:** EGU2020: Sharing Geoscience Online [virtual meeting]
- **11–12 May:** Inter-Planetary Small Satellite Conference [virtual meeting]
- **12–13 May:** Sixth International Planetary Dunes Workshop, Alamosa, Colo. [virtual meeting]
- **12–14 May:** 8th European Lunar Symposium [virtual meeting]
- **14 May:** Space Science in Context [virtual meeting]

Planetary Sciences Announcements/Updates

1. 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 2 years and is renewable for up to 1 additional year. Postdocs will split their time each year between a host institution affiliated with the EMM science team (Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado; Space Sciences Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley; Northern Arizona University; Arizona State University; NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; Space Science 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

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>.

2. NASA Postdoctoral Fellowship – Application Deadline July 1, 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. 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: March 1, **July 1**, and **November 1**.

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

Questions: npphelp@usra.edu

3. 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), and 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 variety 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 to cross 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: [https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)2169-9100.EXOPL1](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)2169-9100.EXOPL1).

4. Lecturer in Astronomy: Northern Arizona University

The Department of Astronomy and Planetary Science at Northern Arizona University seeks a lecturer to teach and develop courses for our growing undergraduate program in astronomy. The successful candidate is expected to teach across a full range of classroom environments, from large introductory lectures to small upper division courses, and to organize, supervise, and occasionally teach introductory astronomy labs. Responsibilities may also include curriculum development and student mentoring.

Application review will begin **15 May 2020**. Interested individuals can contact Prof. Tyler Robinson (tyler.robinson@nau.edu) with questions, and apply via <https://tinyurl.com/ybuqn6vuk>.

5. Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey: Call for White Papers

The Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023–2032 was formally initiated by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on 20 March.

A website for the submission of white papers has been established and can be accessed via the main decadal survey website at <http://nas.edu/planetarydecadal>.

The deadline for the submission of white papers is **4 July 2020**.