

Upcoming conferences and events

15 - 17 October 2012

12th European Workshop on Astrobiology (Annual Workshop of EANA)
Stockholm, AlbaNova University Centre
The meeting is sponsored jointly by Nordita and the Astrobiology Center in Stockholm.

Dead line for registration and abstract submission: 23 July 2012

Further information is available at the workshop website:

<http://agenda.albanova.se/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=2996>

3 - 7 September 2012

Planet Formation and Evolution 2012

8th Conference on Formation and Evolution of Planetary Systems

Munich, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich

Topic that will be covered include:

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- Solar System Studies
- Extrasolar Planetary Systems
- Planet Formation
- Physics and Evolution of Protoplanetary Disks
- Laboratory Work on Planet Formation
- Evolution of Planetary Systems
- Planetary Atmospheres

Registration will open in spring 2012.

Further information is available at the workshop website:

<http://www.usm.uni-muenchen.de/people/preibisch/planets2012/>

24 July - 2 August 2012

Summer School Alpbach 2012 "Exploration of the Giant Planets and their Systems"

Alpbach/Tyrol - Austria

The Summer School is open to 60 selected young science and/or engineering students and graduates from among the member and cooperating states of the European Space Agency (ESA). The working language of the Summer School will be English.

The Summer School Alpbach objectives

- motivating participants to seeing space as an exciting and challenging endeavour
- working in international, multi-disciplinary teams by posing challenging topics for designing space missions
- teach a range of scientific topics relevant to the range of possible science missions to design, and to teach about the different aspects of the complex interplay between scientific objectives and requirements on the one hand, mission- and spacecraft design as well as mission costing on the other hand
- to develop the ability to work in teams for a common end, to prepare presentations and reports under serious time constraints
- to develop a professional network
- to enjoy the "Alpbach experience" that is quite unique

The endorsement form duly signed by a University Professor, Head of Department or equivalent, should be submitted to the Aeronautics and Space Agency of FFG before March 31, 2012. The number of participants will be limited to 60 and confirmation of acceptance will be given by the end of April 2012.

Further information under: <http://www.summerschoolalpbach.at/>

14 - 22 July 2012

39th COSPAR (Committee on Space Research) Scientific Assembly
Mysore, Narayana Murthy Centre of Excellence, Karnataka, India.
The following sessions are of particular interest to the astrobiology community:

B0.2 Mars Exploration, Organizer: R. Stephen Saunders

F3.3 Advanced Instrumentation for Astrobiology: ISS, Mars and Beyond,
Organizer: Mary Voytek

B0.6 Astrobiology: Life Signs Detections within Planetary Exploration,
Organizer: John Robert Brucato

F3.6 Astrobiology and Astromaterials as Related to Small Bodies, Organizer:
Kensei Kobayashi

F3.4 Life in Extreme Environments - Model Systems for Astrobiology,
Organizer: Petra Rettberg

F3.2 Prebiotic Chemistry and the Origin of Life, Organizer: Andrew Pohorille

F3.1 Habitability in the Solar System, Organizer: Rafael Navarro-Gonzalez

PEX2: A vision for space exploration: Science as a bridge connecting
stakeholders

Deadline for abstract submission: February 10, 2012.

For more information see: <http://www.cospas-assembley.org>

2 - 15 July 2012

Summer school "Water, ice and the Origin of Life in the Universe"

The Nordic-NASA summer school "Water, ice and the Origin of Life in the Universe", which will be held in Iceland from 2 to 15 July 2012, aims to give participants a thorough high-level introduction into the role of water in the evolution of life in the cosmos, starting from formation of water molecules in space and ending with evolution of the first organisms. It will bring together students and researchers from a multitude of different science branches, making it a truly multidisciplinary event. The event will be organised by the Nordic Astrobiology Network

(<http://www.nordicastrobiology.net>) together with the NASA Astrobiology Institute. Field studies on the colonisation of lava fields and glaciers will complement the lectures. The programme of the summer school comprises: lectures by internationally leading scientists covering a broad range of subjects in astrobiology investigation of colonisation of volcanic rocks and glaciers with in situ life detection techniques excursions to geologically and biologically interesting sites (lava caves, new lava fields) 2 poster sessions for students and early career scientists participants-led discussions about hot topics.

The event is aimed for graduate students and early career scientists (up to 5 years after their first Ph. D. in a related field) in fields related to astrobiology. Undergraduate students can also apply, and can be accepted under exceptional circumstances. The event is open to applicants from all nationalities. Detailed information about the summer school and the application procedure (deadline 31 January 2012) can be found at <http://www.nordicastrobiology.net/Iceland2012>. Successful applicants accepted by the Scientific Committee as participants will receive free lodging, meals and excursions, but will have to organise financial means for their travel to and from Iceland themselves. Course credit awards (ECTS points) for undergraduate and Ph. D. students will be applied for by the course organisers.

Further information: Dr. Wolf Dietrich Geppert wgeppert@hotmail.com

29 May - 2 June 2012

"The Warm Universe - Astrochemistry at Intermediate and Elevated Temperatures"

Tallinn, Estonia

The meeting will be organised as a joint meeting between the COST Action "The Chemical Cosmos: Understanding Chemistry in Astronomical Environments"

<<http://cost.astrochemistry.eu/>> and the Nordic Astrobiology Network

<<http://www.physto.se/~wgeppert/Tallinn2012/General.html>

Deadline for registration, accommodation booking and abstract submission: 15 April 2012

Further information is available at the workshop website:

<http://www.physto.se/~wgeppert/Tallinn2012/>

21 - 22 May 2012

Exolife, Workshop on Astrobiology "Extraterrestrial Life - Beyond our Expectations ?

Vienna, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), Schwarzenbergplatz 6

Chair: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Maria G. Firneis

Co-Chair: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Regina Hitzengerger, University of Vienna, Institute of Astronomy

During these two days the workshop will explore:

- Questions on the habitability of (extrasolar) terrestrial planets (and moons) for life-as-we-know-it, but also the scientific background of possibilities for life-as-we-do-not-know-it.
- Questions beyond natural sciences which will deal with theory of science, communication aspects with extraterrestrials and theological, sociological, historical and philosophical impacts of the potential discovery of extraterrestrial life on humankind.

Deadline for registration: January 31, 2012

Deadline for abstract submission: March 16, 2012. Please send your abstract via email to johannes.leitner@univie.ac.at.

Further information is available at the workshop website:

<http://www.univie.ac.at/EPH/exolife/>

22 - 27 April 2012

European Geosciences Union EGU

Vienna, Austria Center Vienna (ACV) Austria

Deadline for abstract submission: January 17, 2012, 24:00 CET

Further information is available at the conference website:

<http://www.egu2012.eu/home.html>

16 - 20 April 2012

Astrobiology Science Conference 2012 (AbSciCon 2012)

"Exploring Life: Past and Present, Near and Far"

Atlanta, Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, 800 Spring St. NW, GA 30308, USA.

Deadline for abstract submission and Student Travel Grant Application: Jan 31, 2012

Further information is available at the conference website:

<http://abscicon2012.arc.nasa.gov/>

Open positions for Research Associates and Postdoctoral Positions at Harvard University:

Harvard University is launching a research project to study living systems within its Harvard Origins of Life Initiative and the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. The work will be done under the direction of Dr. Juan Perez-Mercader, PI for this project, and brings together approaches for modeling life by using a combined transdisciplinary approach involving Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Computer Science and Engineering. We invite applications for a number of Research Associate and Postdoctoral positions in the areas of Origin of Life, Information Theory, Synthetic/Artificial Life, Physics and Chemistry of Out-of-Equilibrium Phenomena and Chemical Engineering.

It is anticipated that the Research Associate positions will be for at least 3 years with continuation contingent upon strong performance. Each of the Postdoctoral positions is awarded for one year with an option to renew for a second year dependent upon strong performance. All positions are available immediately.

Qualified individuals interested in the above fields and with a demonstrated record of work related to

- (1) Experimental and/or Computational Evolution of Chemical Networks,
- (2) Chemical Engineering in Microfluidic Environments,
- (3) Chemoinformatics and Molecular Design,
- (4) Computer Simulation of Partial Differential Equations in Noisy Environments,
- (5) Noise Induced Transitions: experimental and theoretical work,
- (6) Dynamical Renormalization Group,
- (7) Decoupling in Out-of-Equilibrium Systems,
- (8) Experimental and Phenomenological Study of Reaction/Diffusion Equations, including instrument development for their chemical/physical characterization,
- (9) Experimental Work on Vesicle Formation,
- (10) Theoretical Computer Science, including Applications to Digital and Analog Computers,
- (11) Information Theory,
- (12) Information in Living Systems,
- (13) DNA and Soft-Computing,
- (14) Experimental/ Theoretical Work on Self-assembly and Thermodynamics of Open Systems

can apply electronically by emailing a curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation and a short (limited to one page) statement of her or his scientific interests to Ms. Ruth Capella <Ruth_capella@harvard.edu> by Monday January 30, 2012. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until all positions are filled. For additional information you may address your specific questions to the address <topdownsynthbio@fas.harvard.edu>.

Harvard University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, strongly encouraging applications from women and minority scientists, and offering competitive compensation and benefits.