

Circular for an international workshop at the University of Leeds, UK
February 15th to 17th 2007

Astrobiology and the Search for Life in Extreme Mars Analogue Environments

The Leeds Astrobiology International Interdisciplinary Initiative - LAI³

This workshop will discuss research on terrestrial Mars analogues (both field and laboratory studies) that aim to design and test the most appropriate and thorough protocols and analytical tools to look for life elsewhere. The workshop will feature talks and group discussions about current research and potential plans for the future and it will be shadowed by a series of Leeds-based events around the "Life on Mars" theme.

Confirmed speakers include:

Hans Amundsen	Physics of Geological Processes, University of Oslo, Norway
Oliver Botha	International Space Science Institute, Bern Switzerland
Charles Cockell	Centre for Earth, Planetary, Space and Astronomical Research, Open University, UK
Pamela Conrad	NASA, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, USA
Howell Edwards	University of Bradford, UK
Pascale Ehrenfreund	University of Leiden, The Netherlands
Marilyn Fogel	Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, USA
Susan Jorge Villas	University of Burgos, Spain
Mark Sims	University of Leicester, UK
Andrew Steele	Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, USA
Frances Westall	Centre de Biophysique Moléculaire, CNRS, Orléans, France

Representatives from ESA, PPARC and Norwegian Space Agency will also be attending.

Registration and Contact Details

The registration form is on the Earth and Biosphere Institute web site at www.ebi.org.uk. Email the completed form to pre@earth.leeds.ac.uk. **Registration deadline: Jan 31st 2007**

Standard registration for non-invited speakers: £70

Student registration: £45.00

Registration fee includes workshop and other events documentation, lunch and conference banquet.

Accompanying persons for banquet £30.00

The full workshop program and additional information on the related events can be found on line at www.ebi.org.uk from January 2007 and will be distributed by e-mail.

For additional information please contact Liane G. Benning directly at University of Leeds School of Earth and Environment:

Phone +44 (0) 113 343 5220

Email: liane@earth.leeds.ac.uk

**This conference is sponsored by
University of Leeds, World Universities Network and Earth & Biosphere Institute.**

Conference Schedule

Woodhouse Suite, University House, Leeds University

Thursday 15th February

- 12:00 to 13:30 Conference registration and buffet lunch at University House
13.30 to 14.00 Introduction (Liane G. Benning)
14.00 to 17:00 Workshop Theme: Field Studies (5 x 30 min talks and discussion)
- 18:00 Public lecture by Dr Andrew Steele and Dr Marilyn Fogel in Leeds Holy Trinity Church (☺) followed by Civic Reception and visit to AMASE Exhibition in 'The Light' (see 'Celebrate Leeds 2007')

Friday 16th February

- 09:00 to 12:30 Workshop Theme: Laboratory Studies (6 x 30 min talks and discussion)
12:30 to 13:30 Buffet lunch
13:30 to 16:30 Breakout session: Group discussions about the way forward
- 17:00 to 18:00 Plenary lecture in the Leeds University Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre by Prof Ivar Giaever (Nobel Prize 1973) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York, USA
19:30 Conference banquet dinner for delegates at University House

Saturday 17th February

- 09:00 to 12:30 Workshop Theme: Mars Missions (6 x 30 min talks and discussion)
12:30 to 13:30 Buffet lunch
13.30 End of Conference



'Celebrate Leeds 2007' Public Events

In 2007 the City of Leeds has a year long celebration marking 800 years since the foundation of the Borough of Leeds. The 'Life on Mars' events are part of the 'Futures' strand of Celebrate Leeds 2007. Several public events will take place that are related to the Astrobiology Conference.

1. The AMASE Art Exhibition

The AMASE Art Exhibition is a collection of art, photography and video installations generated during the AMASE expeditions to Svalbard and also includes a display of the 'UK goes to the Planets' travelling exhibition. The exhibition will be displayed at "The Light" in Leeds city centre from 12th to 25th February 2007, and will be available for viewing from 06:00 till midnight.

2. Other 'Life on Mars' Events

January 2007 Cafe Scientifique discussion event: "Life on Mars" (venue tba)

Thursday 15th Feb

09:00 to 11:00 Build a Rover Competition: showcase and prize giving in 'The Light'

18:00 to 19:00 Public lecture by Dr Andrew Steele and Dr Marilyn Fogel at Leeds Holy Trinity Church (☺); followed by a civic reception with Leeds University and Leeds City Council representatives.

Monday 19th Feb

11:00 to 12:00 Schools lecture by Dr Andrew Steele and his daughter Alisha at the University of Leeds

Friday 9th March

18.00 – 20.00 LUMMS performs "Holst's 'The Planets', Leeds Town Hall