7<sup>th</sup> Astrobiology Society of Britain conference 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 The Open University, Milton Keynes



#### **SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME**

Location: Berrill Lecture Theatre

## **WEDNESDAY 13th September**

09:30	ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION
10:30	OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE AND LOGISTICS Manish Patel
10:40	OU WELCOME REMARKS
10:50	UK SPACE AGENCY WELCOME REMARKS Katherine Wright
Session 1: L	EO and analogue experiments (Chair T. Kee)
11:00	WHEN IS AN ANALOGUE AN ANALOGUE? LINKING EARTH BIOLOGY TO FAR AWAY WORLDS Charles Cockell (invited)
11:45	GEOMICROBIAL BIOFILMS AND THE WEATHERING OF BASALT UNDER DIFFERENT GRAVITY CONDITIONS  Natasha Nicholson
12:00	A MARS-RELEVANT SUBSTRATE THAT SUPPORTS AUTOTROPHIC GROWTH BY NITRATE- DEPENDENT FE2+ OXIDATION Alex Price
12:15	LUNCH
13:15	Y-MARS: AN ASTROBIOLOGICAL ANALOGUE OF MARTIAN MUDSTONE Adam Stevens
13:30	BIOSIGN (BIOSIGNATURE AND HABITABLE NICHES): A FUTURE EXPOSURE EXPERIMENT ON-BOARD THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION Karen Olsson-Francis
13:45	DEEP-SEA BRINES: TERRESTRIAL ANALOGUES OF OCEANS IN THE ICY MOONS OF THE OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM André Antunes

Session 2: ExoMars and Exploration (Chair M. Patel)		
14:00	SEARCHING FOR SIGNS OF LIFE: THE EXOMARS 2020 MISSION Elliot Sefton-Nash (invited)	
14:45	EXOMARS LANDING SITE CHARACTERISATION Peter Fawdon	
15:00	THE PANCAM INSTRUMENT FOR THE EXOMARS ROVER Andrew Coates	
15:15	COFFEE	
15:45	NOMAD ON THE EXOMARS TRACE GAS ORBITER: A SPECTROMETER SUITE FOR MEASURING AND MONITORING TRACE GASES AND AEROSOLS IN THE MARTIAN ATMOSPHERE  Jon Mason	
16:00	SURVIVABILITY OF MICRO-ORGANISMS IN HIGH SPEED IMPACTS ON PHOBOS David Evans	
16:15	PROSPA: PROSPECTING FOR WATER AND H, C, N, O, S AT THE LUNAR SOUTH POLE Simeon Barber	
16:30	INTERPRETING THE UNINTERPRETABLE: ON THE VERY IDEA OF A RADICAL ALIEN David Roden	
16:45	Announcements	
17:00	POSTER RECEPTION	
18:00	BARRIE JONES PUBLIC LECTURE: SEARCHING FOR LIFE IN THE COSMOS Louisa Preston	
19:30	DEPART FOR CONFERENCE DINNER	
20:00	CONFERENCE DINNER	

## **THURSDAY 14th September**

# Session 3: Mars Geology and habitability (Chair A. Stevens)

09:00	ARRIVAL AND COFFEE
09:30	SEARCHING FOR LIFE ON THE RED PLANET: PREPARATIONS FOR MARS SAMPLE RETURN Mark Sephton (invited)
10:15	NOACHIAN INVERTED FLUVIAL CHANNELS AND FLOODPLAINS ON MARS: ACCESSIBLE, ANCIENT, HABITABLE ENVIRONMENTS  Matt Balme
10:30	ASSESSING SOURCE REGION CHARACTERISTICS FROM GALE CRATER LACUSTRINE MUDSTONE Candice Bedford
10:45	RECENT BASAL MELTING OF MID-LATITUDE GLACIERS ON MARS Frances Butcher
11:00	COFFEE
11:30	HALOPHILES AT THE LIMIT OF EXISTENCE Terry J. McGenity
11:45	MARS SIMULATED EXPOSURE AND THE CHARACTERISTIC RAMAN BIOSIGNATURES OF AMINO ACIDS AND HALOPHILIC MICROBES  Samantha Rolfe
11:45 12:00	AMINO ACIDS AND HALOPHILIC MICROBES
	AMINO ACIDS AND HALOPHILIC MICROBES Samantha Rolfe THE IDENTIFICATION OF MARTIAN ENVIRONMENTS BASED ON BRINE COMPOSITIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON LIFE
12:00	AMINO ACIDS AND HALOPHILIC MICROBES Samantha Rolfe  THE IDENTIFICATION OF MARTIAN ENVIRONMENTS BASED ON BRINE COMPOSITIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON LIFE Nisha Ramkisson
12:00 12:15	AMINO ACIDS AND HALOPHILIC MICROBES Samantha Rolfe  THE IDENTIFICATION OF MARTIAN ENVIRONMENTS BASED ON BRINE COMPOSITIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON LIFE Nisha Ramkisson  LUNCH  ORGANIC MATTER IN EXTRATERRESTRIAL WATER-BEARING SALT CRYSTALS

Session 4	: Exoplanets and the outer Solar System (Chair: K. Olsson-Francis)
14:00	ALMA DETECTION AND ASTROBIOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF VINYL CYANIDE ON TITAN Martin Cordiner
14:15	TRACING A ROUTE FROM SMALL TO LARGE ORGANIC MOLECULES IN TITAN'S UPPER ATMOSPHERE Ravi Desai
14:30	MASS SPECTROMETER MEASUREMENTS OF THE ORGANICS AT THE SURFACE OF COMET 67P/CHURYUMOV-GERASIMENKO Andrew Morse
14:45	COFFEE
15:15	<b>PUTTING THE HORSE BEFORE THE CART: HABITAT SIGNATURES NOT BIOSIGNATURES</b> David Waltham
15:30	PREBIOTIC CHEMISTRY ON EXOPLANETS Paul Rimmer
15:45	TOWARDS THE EXO-EARTH ERA - A DEDICATED AUSTRALIAN EXOPLANET OBSERVATORY Jonti Horner
16:00	TWINKLE – A LOW-EARTH ORBIT VISIBLE AND INFRARED EXOPLANET SPECTROSCOPY OBSERVATORY Marcell Tessenyi
16:15	CLOSING REMARKS Karen Olsson-Francis

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#### **POSTER PROGRAMME**

Location: Berrill Lecture Theatre foyer/cafe

P01: LESSONS FROM ASTROBIOLOGICAL PLANETARY ANALOGUE EXPLORATION IN ICELAND: BIOMARKER ASSAY PERFORMANCE AND DOWNSELECTION

A.H. Stevens

PO2: HOW MICROBIAL LIFE ADAPTS TO COMBINED EXTREMES

A. Dickinson

P03: MODELLING LIFE UNDER MULTIPLE EXTREME CONDITIONS

R. Cane

P04: TOWARDS A GENERALIZED MODEL OF LIVING

T. P. Kee

P05: CONTROVERSIES ON THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

E. Camprubí Casas

P06: SIMULATING THE PHOBOS REGOLITH FOR PLANETARY PROTECTION STUDIES

V.K. Pearson

P07: WATER ON MARS: A MODULAR APPROACH

D. Natoewal

P08: AN ANALYTICAL PROTOCOL FOR THE EXTRACTION, AND IDENTIFICATION OF, AROMATIC CARBOXYLIC ACIDS FROM A MARS SOIL ANALOGUE, CONTAINING PERCHLORATE SALTS K.G Devine

**P09: DETERMINATION OF GEOCHEMICAL BIOSIGNATURES IN MARS-LIKE BASALTIC ENVIRONMENTS**K. Olsson-Francis

**P10: THE FATE OF LIPID BIOSIGNATURES IN A MARS-ANALOGUE SULFUR STREAM**J. S. W. Tan

P11: DEVELOPMENT OF CH4 AND C2H6 RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS FOR EXOMARS TRACE GAS ORBITER NOMAD

G. Cann

**P12: THE IMPACT OF MARTIAN CHEMISTRY ON THE METABOLISM OF METHANOGENIC ARCHAEA** M. Macey

P13: THE IMAGE CHAIN OF A SURFACE ROVER: SIMULATING THE EXOMARS PANORAMIC CAMERA WIDE ANGLE CAMERAS

R. Stabbins

**P14: FLUID EVOLUTION WITHIN ENCELADUS** 

L.J. Perera

P15: DEFINITION OF AN ENCELADUS SILICATE ANALOGUE FOR ASTROBIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS N.K. Ramkissoon

P16: PPOSS (PLANETARY PROTECTION OF THE OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM) – BEST PRACTICE FOR ORGANIC CONTAMINATION CONTROL

S.H. Royle

P17: MICROBIAL REDUCTION AND GOOD PRACTICES FOR PLANETARY PROTECTION OF OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM BODIES

K. Olsson-Francis

P18: ORGANIC COMPONENTS IN INTERPLANETARY DUST PARTICLES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF COMETARY ORGANICS

Q. Chan

**P19: FANTASTIC WORLDS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM: ASTROBIOLOGY OUTREACH FOR KS2 AND KS3** S.M. Rolfe

P20: THE MARS MODELLING INFORMATION TOOL FOR ENGINEERS: A NEW TOOL FOR ENGINEERS TO ACCESS MARTIAN ATMOSPHERIC CLIMATE DATA

A. El-Said