



MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026

OPEN SESSION

Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/event/5773168>

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Updates from NASA

10:00 AM	Welcome	Dr. Martha Gilmore, CAPS Co-Chair / Dr. Karyn Rogers, CAPS Co-Chair
10:05 AM	NASA Planetary Science Division (PSD) Program Update (30-minute presentation and 30-minute discussion)	Dr. Louise Prockter, Director, NASA-PSD
11:05 AM	NASA Astrobiology Program Update (30-minute presentation and 30-minute discussion)	Dr. Rebecca McCauley Rench, Lead Scientist for Astrobiology, NASA-PSD / Dr. Hannah Jang-Condell, Associate Lead for Astrobiology, NASA / Dr. Rachel Harris, Postdoctoral Management Fellow, NASA
12:05 PM	<i>Working Lunch for Members, Speakers, and Invited Guests</i>	
1:05 PM	Update from the Mars Exploration Program (25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion)	Dr. Lindsay Hays Senior Scientist for Mars Exploration, NASA-PSD / Ms. Tiffany Morgan, Director, Mars Exploration Program, NASA-PSD
1:50 PM	<i>Break</i>	

COMMITTEE ON ASTROBIOLOGY AND PLANETARY SCIENCES
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Focus on Research and Analysis Program and Tech Development for Future Missions

- 2:05 PM** **Status of the NASA Planetary Research Program**
(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion) **Dr. Kathleen Vander Kaaden,
Director, Planetary Research
Program, NASA-PSD**
- 2:50 PM** **Status of the Planetary Exploration Science
Technology Office (PESTO)**
(25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion) **Dr. Michael Lienhard,
Program Officer, Maturation of
Instruments for Solar System Exploration
(MatISSE) Program, NASA-PSD**
- 3:35 PM** *Break*
- 3:50 PM** **Roundtable Discussion on Research and Analysis Program and Tech Development for
Future Missions**
(55-minute discussion)
Roundtable Focus:
• *How can we maintain Research and Analysis Program and Tech Development in line with Decadal priorities in
light of the current fiscal environment?*
Participants
**Dr. Michael Lienhard, Program Officer, Maturation of Instruments for Solar System
Exploration (MatISSE) Program, NASA-PSD**
Dr. Rebecca McCauley Rench, Lead Scientist for Astrobiology, NASA-PSD
Dr. Kathleen Vander Kaaden, Director, Planetary Research Program, NASA-PSD
- 4:45 PM** *Break into Closed Session*

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TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

PLENARY SESSION

See Plenary Session Information for More Details

Website: [Link](#)

Agenda: [Link](#)

DINNER – BY INVITATION ONLY

6:30 PM **Working Dinner for Members, Speakers, and Invited Guests
in the Great Hall**

8:30 PM **Plenary Session Adjourns for the Day**

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

OPEN SESSION

Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/event/5773172>

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Lessons Learned from Planetary Mission Concept Studies from *Origins, Worlds, and Life*

9:30 AM	Welcome and Purpose of the Session	Dr. Martha Gilmore, CAPS Co-Chair / Dr. Karyn Rogers, CAPS Co-Chair
9:35 AM	Discussion of <i>ROSES</i> and Planetary Mission Concept Studies (PMCS) and Lessons Learned from Last Decadal (25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion)	Dr. Henry Throop, Program Scientist, NASA-PSD
10:20 AM	<i>Origins, Worlds, and Life</i> (OWL) and PMCS (25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion)	Dr. Robin Canup / Dr. Phil Chistensen, Co-Chairs, OWL
11:05 AM	<i>Break</i>	
11:15 AM	Improving PMCS for Technical Risk and Cost Estimate Analysis (TRACE) (25-minute presentation and 20-minute discussion)	Mr. Justin Yoshida, Co-Project Leaders, TRACE, Aerospace Corporation
12:00 PM	<i>Working Lunch for Members, Speakers, and Invited Guests</i>	

The Present and Future of NASA Analysis Groups (AGs)

12:55 PM	Future of the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) (25-minute presentation and 10-minute discussion)	Dr. Debra Buczkowski, Deputy Chair, VEXAG
1:30 PM	Future of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) (25-minute presentation and 10-minute discussion)	Dr. Victoria Hamilton, Chair, MEPAG
2:05 PM	Future of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG) (25-minute presentation and 10-minute discussion)	Dr. Benjamin Greenhagen, Chair, LEAG

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2:40 PM *Break*

2:50 PM **Future of Outer Planets Analysis Group (OPAG)** **Dr. Morgan Cable / Dr. Carol Paty,**
(25-minute presentation and 10-minute discussion) **Co-Chairs, OPAG**

3:25 PM **Future of Small Bodies Analysis Group (SBAG)** **Dr. Terik Daly,**
Second Line of the Title **Chair, SBAG**
(25-minute presentation and 10-minute discussion)

4:00 PM *Break*

4:10 PM **Roundtable Discussion on Future of the Analysis Groups and Keeping Cohesive Communities**

(65-minute discussion)

Roundtable Focus:

- *What Decadal-level science can be facilitated by the AGs in this new environment?*
- *How can the AGs maintain community cohesion and communications?*
- *How does the field as a whole move forward towards the Mid-Decadal?*

Participants

Dr. Michael Bland, Co-Chair, Ocean Worlds Working Group (OWWG)

Dr. Debra Buczowski, Deputy Chair, VEXAG

Dr. Morgan Cable, Co-Chair, OPAG

Dr. Ian Crossfield, Chair, Exoplanet Exploration Program Analysis Group (ExoPAG)

Dr. Terik Daly, Chair, SBAG

Dr. Benjamin Greenhagen, Chair, LEAG

Dr. Victoria Hamilton, Chair, MEPAG

Dr. Yang Liu, Chair, Extraterrestrial Materials Analysis Group (ExMAG)

Dr. Stephen Parman, Chair, Mercury Exploration Assessment Group (MExAG)

Dr. Carol Paty, Co-Chair, OPAG

Dr. Cynthia Phillips, Co-Chair, OWWG

Dr. Julie Stopar, Chair, Mapping and Planetary Spatial Infrastructure Team (MAPSIT)

5:15 PM *Break into Closed Session*

KEYNOTE PUBLIC LECTURE

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Space Science Week 2026 Keynote Public Lecture

**An Instrument Nature Can Play:
Data, Sound, and the Work of Imagination in Science
Wednesday, March 25, at 7:00 PM ET**

Speakers:

Jewel
Prof. Greg Niemeyer
Dr. Chelle Gentemann

Scientific breakthroughs rarely start with answers. They start when we imagine things we can't yet see. In this keynote, join singer Jewel as she shares her latest work and how her collaboration with NASA's data and use of open science come together to show how creativity helps people connect more deeply to their environment by making science more visible, tangible, and participatory.

See Details Here: [Link](#)

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

OPEN SESSION

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Post-Meeting Briefing to NASA-PSD Leadership

3:00 PM

Concluding Discussion on Meeting Highlights & Takeaways

(90-minute discussion)

Participants

Dr. Louise Prockter, Director, NASA-PSD *(virtual)*

Dr. Rebecca McCauley Rench, Program Scientist for Astrobiology, NASA-PSD

Dr. Kathleen Vander Kaaden, Director, Planetary Research Program, NASA-PSD

4:30 PM

Meeting Adjourns

IMPORTANT NOTES

Presenters:

- Please do not include unpublished data, ITAR-controlled or sensitive information in your presentation.
- A National Academies Board staff member will ask you to sign a form before the meeting allowing us permission to use your likeness and presentation for our livestream video, which will be posted on our Board website after the meeting. Please get in touch with us before the meeting if you have any concerns about this usage.

Members and Presenters:

- Remote access will be provided through Zoom. This will allow you to participate in the meeting even if you can't be physically present.
- Please note that Zoom allows audio and any materials exchanged or viewed during the session to be recorded and shared.
- By participating in this activity, you agree to let your voice, likeness, and any materials you provide be recorded for use and dissemination. This includes any language, format, or media now known or later devised.
- You release the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine from any and all claims, liability, or damages arising from any such use. If you disagree, please do not join the session.

Members of the General Public:

- Remote access will be provided through a live stream on Vimeo. This will also be publicly available and posted on the Board website. You do not need to register.

Thank you all for your cooperation, and we look forward to a successful meeting.