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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Scientists To Map Out Astrobiology Strategy

From: Stig Agermose <[wanderer@post8.tele.dk](mailto:wanderer@post8.tele.dk)>  
Date: Mon, 20 Jul 1998 05:34:31 -0400  
Fwd Date: Mon, 20 Jul 1998 05:34:31 -0400  
Subject: Scientists To Map Out Astrobiology Strategy

Date: Mon, 20 Jul 1998 03:20:23 +0200

>From the newsgroup "sci.space.news". URL:

news:[16JUL199817334390@kelvin.jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:16JUL199817334390@kelvin.jpl.nasa.gov)

Stig

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Leading Scientists Meet To Map Out Astrobiology Strategy

From: [baalke@kelvin.jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:baalke@kelvin.jpl.nasa.gov) (Ron Baalke)  
Date: 16 Jul 1998 17:33 UT  
Organization: Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
Newsgroups: sci.space.news=A0

Donald Savage  
Headquarters, Washington, DC  
July 16, 1998  
(Phone: 202/358-1727)

Kathy Burton  
Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA  
(Phone: 650/604-1731)

NOTE TO EDITORS: N98-46

LEADING SCIENTISTS MEET TO MAP OUT ASTROBIOLOGY STRATEGY

Leading scientists from around the world will meet next week in a critical first step in planning NASA's emerging astrobiology program. In a three-day "roadmapping" session, participants will discuss development of a five-year strategic plan for astrobiology research, next-generation missions and technology requirements.

The goal of the workshop is to provide direction and set the tone for astrobiology research and its

impact on NASA's missions, both in the near term and looking ahead to the year 2020. Astrobiology is the search for the origin, evolution and destiny of life in the universe. It involves research to gain understanding of the origins of life in the universe, the formation and evolution of habitable worlds, life's evolution and the biogeochemical cycles in the Earth's oceans and atmosphere, and the potential for biological evolution beyond an organism's planet of origin.

The roadmap team will define top-level mission and technology requirements to achieve astrobiology science goals and map these requirements onto NASA's future missions and technology development programs. Topics for discussion include life's molecular roots, the cosmic context for life, the origin of terrestrial life and the prospects for life beyond the planet of origin.

The three-day planning workshop will be held July 20-22, 1998, at NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA. Media representatives are invited to attend the workshop's opening sessions, which run from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 1:00 p.m. PDT on July 20 in the Moffett Training and Conference Center (Building 3). Contact the Ames Public Affairs Office at 650/604-1731 for media access information.

"Future Shock" author Alvin Toffler will lead a dialogue about the "fourth wave" and astrobiology. Other speakers will include Michael Meyer, astrobiology discipline scientist; Henry McDonald, Ames center director; David Morrison, Ames director of space; and Scott Hubbard, interim manager of the NASA Astrobiology Institute based at Ames.

Workshop attendees will include top multidisciplinary researchers from around the nation, including Nobel laureates Dr. Walter Gilbert of Harvard University and Dr. Stanley N. Cohen of the Stanford University School of Medicine. Other attendees will include National Academy of Science members and representatives from leading research institutions and universities. Represented disciplines will range from astronomy and astrophysics, to biology, chemistry and planetary geology. Scientists in all fields are working toward the common goal of discovering the role of life in the universe.

Members of NASA's recently formed virtual Astrobiology Institute will participate in this exercise. This highly interdisciplinary group comes from 11 selected institutions which include: Arizona State University; Carnegie Institution; Harvard University; Pennsylvania State University; Scripps Research Institute; the University of Colorado; the University of California, Los Angeles; Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory; Ames; and NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX, and Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA.

Information about astrobiology at Ames can be found on the world wide web at:

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

-end-

**UFO UpDates - Toronto - [updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)**

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