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Edited by Mario Livio, Neill Reid and William B. Sparks
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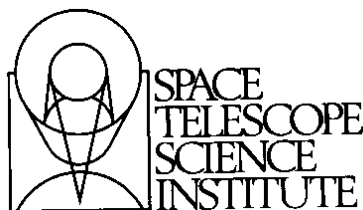
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ASTROPHYSICS OF LIFE

This volume is based on a meeting held at the Space Telescope Science Institute, which aimed to lay the astrophysical groundwork for locating habitable places in the Universe. Written by leading scientists in the field, it covers a range of topics relevant to the search for life in the Universe, including: extrasolar planet searches and properties; the history of the solar system; star and planet formation; the habitability of planets; and strategies for searches. This is an indispensable collection of articles for researchers and graduate students.



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Astrophysics of life

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MARIO LIVIO

Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA

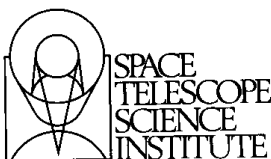
I. NEILL REID

Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA

WILLIAM B. SPARKS

Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA

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Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
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Participants

Aloisi, Alessandra	The Johns Hopkins University
Avera, Randy	Randolph Publishing/NASA
Babiuc, Maria Cristina	Technical University “Gh. Asachi” Iasi
Bergeron, Pierre	Université de Montréal
Bianchi, Luciana	The Johns Hopkins University
Blair, William	The Johns Hopkins University
Blitz, Balir	Radio Astronomy Laboratory, University of California
Bresolin, Fabio	Institute for Astronomy
Brown, Thomas	Space Telescope Science Institute
Bullock, James	Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
Cacciari, Carla	INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Bologna
Chandar, Rupali	Space Telescope Science Institute
Crowther, Paul	University College London
Clampin, Mark	Space Telescope Science Institute
Cody, George	Carnegie Institute of Washington
Cooper, John	NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center
Correia, José Carlos	University of Lisbon
Coude du Foresto, Vincent	Observatoire de Paris
D’Amario, James	Harford Community College
de Grijs, Richard	University of Cambridge
de la Fuente Acosta, Eduardo	Instituto de Astronomia, UNAM
Dellorusso, Neil	Catholic University of America/Goddard Space Flight Center
DeMarchi, Guido	Space Telescope Science Institute
Desch, Steven	Carnegie Institution of Washington
des Marais, Dave	NASA/Ames Research Center
Disanti, John	Catholic University of America/Goddard Space Flight Center
Duerbeck, Hilmar W.	Brussels Free University (VUB)
Dwek, Eli	NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center
Ehrenfreund, Pascale	Leiden Observatory
Felten, James	NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center
Foing, Bernard	SCI-SR, ESA/ESTEC
Ford, Holland	The Johns Hopkins University
Ford, K. E. Saavik	The Johns Hopkins University
Fraaije, Johannes	Leiden Institute of Chemistry
Frisch, Priscilla	University of Chicago
Fruchter, Andy	Space Telescope Science Institute
Gaudi, Scott	Institute for Advanced Study
Gibb, Erika	NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center
Gilliland, Ronald	Space Telescope Science Institute
Gimenez, Alvaro	ESA/ESTEC
Godfrey, J. Terry	Information Systems Laboratories, Inc.
Godon, Patrick	Space Telescope Science Institute
Gonzalez, Guillermo	Iowa State University
Graff, David	Ohio State University
Greyber, Howard	
Grogan, Keith	NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

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 Hansen, Brad
 Hartnett, Kevin
 Hasan, Hashima
 Hauser, Mike
 Heap, Sara
 Hillman, John
 Illingworth, Garth
 Jeletic, Jim
 Justh, Hilary
 Kasting, James
 Kharecha, Pushker
 Kobulnicky, Chip
 Koerner, David
 Krelove, Kara
 Kress, Monika
 Lecar, Mike
 Leckrone, David
 Lissauer, Jack
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 Lubow, Steve
 Lunine, Jonathan
 Macchetto, Duccio
 Magee-Sauer, Karen
 Marcy, Geoffrey
 Margon, Bruce
 Mathews, Grant
 Matrajt, Graciela
 Mazzuca, Lisa
 McGrath, Melissa
 McGuire, Patrick
 McKay, Christopher
 McLean, Brian
 McLeod, Kim
 Meadows, Victoria
 Meech, Karen
 Melnick, Gary
 Mercader-Perez, Juan
 Moore, Marla
 Morrison, David
 Mumma, Michael
 Neelson, Kenneth
 Neufeld, David
 Niedner, Mal
 Noll, Keith
 Nota, Antonella
 Noyes, Robert
 Pearlstein, Robert
 Peeters, Zan
 Pilcher, Carl

Participants

Carnegie Institute of Washington
 University of California, Los Angeles
 NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center
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 Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
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 NASA Headquarters

Participants

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Reid, Neill	Space Telescope Science Institute
Reitsema, Harold	Ball Aerospace Technologies Corporation
Rhie, Sun Hong	University of Notre Dame
Rubenstein, Eric	Smith College
Sahu, Kailash	Space Telescope Science Institute
Sandford, Scott	NASA/Ames Research Center
Scalo, John	University of Texas
Schreier, Ethan	Space Telescope Science Institute
Seager, Sara	Institute for Advanced Study
Seitter, Waltraut C.	Muenster University
Sozzetti, Alessandro	Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Sparks, Bill	Space Telescope Science Institute
Suchkov, Anatoly	Space Telescope Science Institute
Swade, Daryl	Space Telescope Science Institute
Tanner, Angelle	University of California, Los Angeles
Tarter, Jill	SETI Institute
Tej, Anandmayee	Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg
Traub, Wesley	Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
Trauger, John	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Turnbull, Margaret	University of Arizona
Turner, Edwin	Princeton University Observatory
Valenti, Jeff	Space Telescope Science Institute
Vieira, Gladys	NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center
Vishniac, Ethan	The Johns Hopkins University
Weinberger, Alycia	Carnegie Institution of Washington
Wheeler, J. Craig	University of Texas at Austin
Wilkinson, David	Princeton University
Wootten, Alwyn	National Radio Astronomy Observatory
Zahnle, Kevin	NASA/Ames Research Center
Zubko, Viktor	NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

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Preface

The Space Telescope Science Institute Symposium on “Astrophysics of Life” took place during 6–9 May 2002. Unlike other astrobiology symposia, the emphasis here was on astronomical observations and astrophysical research. With the discovery of more than a hundred extrasolar planets on one hand, and recent progress in the understanding of the evolution of the universe on the other, the “astro” part of astrobiology has advanced to the forefront of astronomical investigation.

These proceedings represent only a part of the invited talks that were presented at the symposium. We thank the contributing authors for preparing their manuscripts.

We thank Sharon Toolan of ST ScI for her help in preparing this volume for publication.

Mario Livio
I. Neill Reid
William B. Sparks
*Space Telescope Science Institute
Baltimore, Maryland*