Thursday, June 18, 2015
PLENARY SESSION:
PLANETS IN PERSPECTIVE: WHERE'S THE ENERGY?
8:00 a.m.   Grand Ballroom

8:00 a.m.   *Daily Announcements*

8:10 a.m.   *Planets in Perspective: Where's the Energy?*

Moderator: **Britney Schmidt**

In the previous two decades, planetary exploration has observed one mantra: "Follow the Water." However, as the field of astrobiology has matured, particularly with respect to planetary environments and the broad range of possible ways that potentially habitable planets have formed and evolved, we may be standing on the precipice of a shift toward "Follow the Energy." This theme recognizes that planetary processes are the likely precursors to life, and inspires new ways of assessing the habitability of a planet based not only on its ingredients, but also on a holistic assessment of its systems and cycles.

PLENARY SESSION:
SEEKING ASTROBIOLOGY INPUT TO MARS 2020 LANDING SITE SELECTION
9:15 a.m.   Grand Ballroom

Moderators: **Dave Beaty**
                                Lindsay Hays

The proposed Mars 2020 rover mission has two objectives of high importance to astrobiology: (1) to carry out in situ exploration operations seeking the signs of past life, and (2) to collect samples of martian material and seal them in individual tubes for possible return to Earth for detailed analysis, including assessment of potential biosignatures.

Mars has varied geological terrain. In order to maximize the chances of making a major astrobiological discovery, it is crucial to select a landing site that offers the highest chances of addressing these life-related objectives. Although the formal landing site selection process is open to all, the purpose of this session is to solicit specific input from the astrobiology community about the desired attributes of potential landing sites and the rationale for prioritizing these attributes. This session seeks to foster broader intellectual inputs from the astrobiology community. The results of this discussion will be provided to the landing site selection committee.

10:15 a.m.   BREAK