SKETCHING THE NEW HORIZONS 2014 MU69 FLYBY EVENT. Leila R. Gabasova[1], C. B. Olkin[2], J. R. Spencer[2], J. Wm. Parker[2], A. J. Verbiscer[3], H. A. Weaver[4], S. A. Stern[2], and the New Horizons Science Team; [1]Université Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, IPAG (Grenoble, France) (leila.gabasova@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr), [2]SwRI (Boulder, CO, USA), [3] University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA, USA), [4]JHU-APL (Laurel, MD, USA).

Summary: Visual art has long been a critical facet of scientific outreach, and various types of illustrations are vital to concisely and intuitively summarising scientific results for both the public and other scientists. This typically consists of realistic or technical art such as artists' impressions of planets or geological cross-sections. A different but equally important facet of visual communication, however, is the more lowbrow art of comics and cartooning. Comics are an extremely powerful tool for demystifying the scientific process and engaging those members of the public who have difficulty connecting with conventional forms of science communication [1, 2].

In recent years liveblogging has become a popular way of quickly getting exciting results out at scientific conferences [3], and has even been used by major news publications (e.g. the Guardian's coverage of the Rosetta mission [4]). In addition to communicating the actual information, the unpolished format conveys the excitement of the moment and illustrates the rapid evolution of scientific consensus. Combining this with a visual component in the form of sketching heightens the excitement and immediacy inherent to liveblogging. It also helps with communicating the science concisely and understandably, and humanises the scientists involved, helping the non-scientific public connect with them.

The 2014 MU69 New Horizons flyby in particular has received massive media coverage and has been an exciting event for scientists and non-scientists alike. In addition to carrying out my scientific role on the composition team, I live-sketched the discussions, speculations and reactions of my colleagues, as well as summarising our knowledge of 2014 MU69 in cartoon form as it evolved in real time. Art produced by some of my colleagues during the flyby focuses more on the scientific aspect of the mission and results [5], and it is my hope that my work complements these by shedding light on the human component. In this poster, I will present the complete collection of my sketches done during the week-long event.

References: **[1]** M. Tatalovic. *Journal of science communication*, 8(4):A02, 2009. **[2]** A. N. Spiegel, et al. *Research in science education*, 43(6):2309–2326, 2013. **[3]** A. L. Lister et al. *PLoS computational biology*, 6(1):e1000563, 2010. **[4]** Stuart Clark. *Communicating Astronomy with the Public Journal*, 19:42, 2016. **[5]** J. T. Keane et al. *LPSC 50*, 2019.

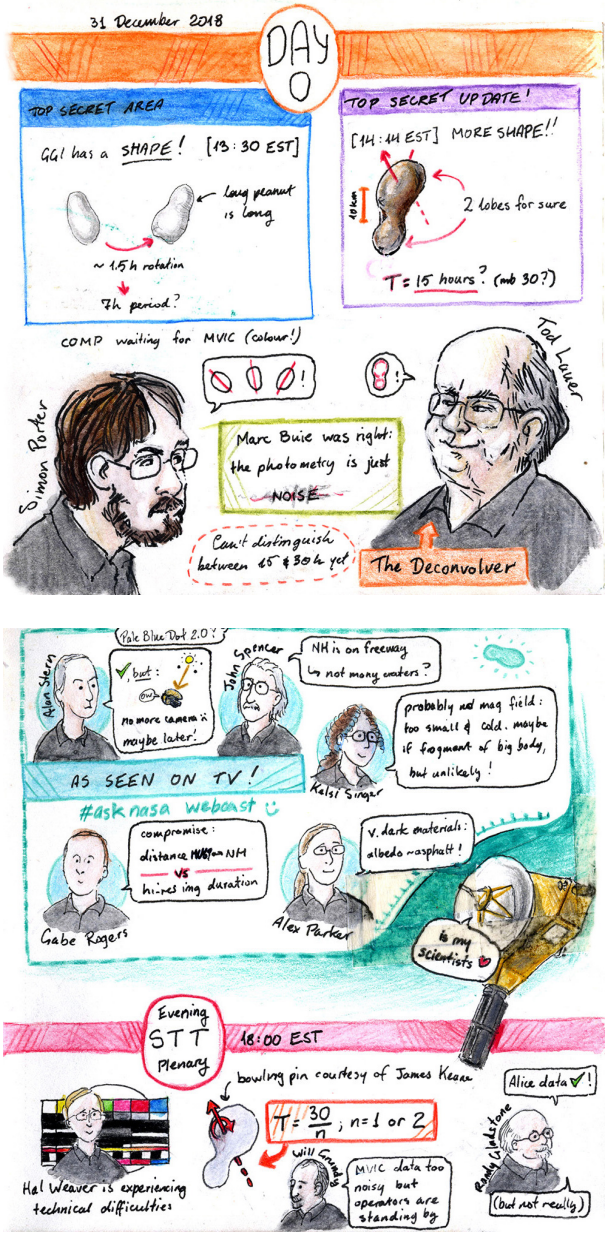

Figure 1: Example sketch pages drawn by the author during the flyby event.