



MARS EXTANT LIFE: WHAT'S NEXT?

November 5-8, 2019
Carlsbad, New Mexico

Mars Extant Life Conference: Rescheduled!

The conference “Mars Extant Life: What’s Next?” in Carlsbad, NM, originally scheduled for January 2019, has been rescheduled for November 5th-8th, 2019. The original call for abstracts attracted approximately 60 abstracts. The original program can be viewed, and **NEW** or revised abstracts submitted, at <https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lifeonmars2019/program/>. All new or revised abstracts related to the topic of searching for extant life on Mars will be considered for the updated conference program.

Call for Abstracts

New or Revised Abstracts are being solicited which focus on the following topics:

- Candidate environmental niches for hypothesized Mars extant life
- Use of terrestrial analogs to prioritize and interpret candidate sites and/or investigation strategies
- Measuring signatures of present life as we know it
- Measuring signatures of present life as we don’t know it
- Strategies for extant life detection that account for forward contamination
- Testing the hypotheses: Investigation strategies that require sample acquisition (either *in situ* or sample return)
- Testing the hypotheses: Investigation strategies that don’t require sample acquisition
- Instruments and technologies for detecting extant life: strengths, limitations, and projected improvements.
- Mission Concepts/Strategies (robotic and/or in association with human missions)
- Other

New, Revised, or Withdrawn Abstract Deadline: Thursday, August 22, 2019, 5:00 p.m. [U.S. Central Daylight Time](#) (GMT -5)

Conference Logistics & Field Trip

The conference will take place over 3.5 days and will be hosted at the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI)

A one-day field trip is being planned in association with this conference. The preliminary concept is to spend the first 3/4 of the day underground in [Carlsbad Caverns National Park](#) to look at life forms that have found refuge there. In the afternoon there will be a choice of several possible options (final planning TBD), including a visit to 1) the Castile formation to view the geological expression of subsurface biological activity by sulfate reducing bacteria; 2) the Carlsbad core repository to view a core taken from the WIPP site; 3) examination of geophysical detection of subsurface brine pools in the Carlsbad area; and 4) participation in a STEM-related outreach activity. The caverns portion of the field trip will be run regardless of weather, but any surface outcrop work may be canceled (or replaced with something else) if the weather is uncooperative.

