National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA EPSCOR PRESENTS

Virtual Research Discussion with the Office of Planetary Protection

WEDNESDAY, 2/9/2022 @ 4 PM EST

NASA EPSCoR presents a virtual research discussion with the Office of Planetary Protection within the agency's Office of Safety and Mission Assurance. The event will feature a brief presentation from the NASA researchers listed below, followed by a moderated Q&A session.

Dr. J. Nick Benardini is the NASA Planetary Protection Officer within the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance. Prior to coming to NASA Headquarters in June 2021, he spent over 20 years working in planetary protection research and flight project implementation at JPL. He has been instrumental in planning and leading verification activities for Mars 2020, InSight, Mars Science Laboratory, and the Mars Exploration Rovers. As a principal investigator, he has conducted research in the field of environmental microbiology, studying extreme environments.

Dr. Elaine Seasly is NASA's Deputy Planetary Protection Officer and supports the agency's solar system exploration missions by ensuring the science, explored environments, and Earth's biosphere are not compromised by contamination. She began her career in contamination control at Raytheon Missile Systems and supported space-based missile defense programs for over 14 years. She transitioned to NASA in 2015 to lead contamination control and planetary protection efforts at Langley Research Center. Currently at NASA Headquarters, she brings a systems engineering perspective to the planetary protection leadership team.

PROGRAM AGENDA

- **4:00 pm EST**
  – NASA Researcher Intros & Priority Overview
- **4:30 pm EST**
  – Moderated Q & A
- **5:15 pm EST**
  – Wrap up & Next Steps

ZOOM INFO

Meeting Link
Meeting ID: 97561282943
Password: 299721

NASA EPSCoR Presents Virtual Research Discussions are bimonthly meetings (held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 4 pm Eastern) designed to introduce University Researchers in the 28 EPSCoR Jurisdictions to Researchers at NASA. The major objectives of these meetings are to 1) Ensure NASA EPSCoR Researchers around the country are familiar with the research priorities and active projects at NASA, 2) Confirm that NASA Researchers are familiar with the opportunities NASA EPSCoR funding can offer to their research enterprises, 3) Provide a forum for jurisdictions researchers to ask questions regarding potential areas of interest to NASA, and 4) result in high quality collaborative opportunities for both NASA and EPSCoR Jurisdiction Researchers.