



for the informed interplanetary astrobiologist



## Highlights

- AbGradE presents a brand new online working space for astrobiologists of all nations
- New quarterly newsletter seeks to advertise your job announcements and publications
- As conferences move online, attendance soars
- Upcoming AbGradE meeting on Space Law, Governance and Ethics
- Creative competition

## Astrobiology featured picture

Long ago, when everything was 1.5 meters closer...

The picture above was taken at the last AbGradE workshop in Orleans, France in 2019. Though it may be difficult to recall, there was a time during which scientists got together to showcase their work, dream up new projects, plan their next field expeditions and play around with a perfect replica of a Mars rover. Adaptable creatures that we are, we are still managing to do this today, albeit in a slightly different fashion.

We would like to thank all of you from all over the world for attending Virtual AbGradE 2020, which while keeping us distant, brought together more people than any of our events ever before!

# Upcoming Events

*click the links!*



- **AbGradE '21** will be virtual and will be held alongside **EANA'21** in September
- **AbGradCon '21** will take place at ELSI (Tokyo, Japan) 14-17 of September
- **AbGradEPEC '20** moved to 2022
- AbGradE and the Open University (UK) will organise a conference on Space Law, Governance and Ethics in order to connect policy makers and space lawyers with astrobiologists on May 7, 2021 contact: Alex Price [abgrade@eana-net.eu](mailto:abgrade@eana-net.eu)
- **RED '21** astrobiology course is scheduled for June 20-26 in Le Teich, France

- **Origins Center** virtual conference January 27-28, 2021



- **EAI '21 Astrobiology in ongoing and future space missions** will be held 29 June - 2 July in Höör, Denmark or alternatively September 27-30 in Tartu, Estonia

- **BEACON** will be held 25-29 of April, 2022 in La Palma, Spain



## Creative Competition

AbGradE invites you to submit a **photograph or art piece** (any medium) addressing the question: **What is astrobiology to me?**

Please send your jpeg, tiff, pdf or png file and description to [abgrade@eana-net.eu](mailto:abgrade@eana-net.eu) by 30/06/21.

Postdoc position in biogeochemical modelling at Queen Mary University of London *January 15th*

Postdoc position in exoplanet atmospheres at the University of Amsterdam *January 31st*

2 Postdoc positions at Utrecht University and the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research on hydrothermal vents

1. Impact of hydrothermal vents on ocean biogeochemistry
2. Marine ecology and protecting hydrothermal vent fields

*January 20th*

# Job openings



4 PhD positions on early life and habitability of extraterrestrial environments at the University of Edinburgh

1. Fossilization at the dawn of animal time
2. When bacteria ruled the Earth (and Mars?)
3. Habitability of Icy Moons
4. Weathering of clays in extreme conditions

*Deadline January 7th*

Postdoctoral fellowship candidates are urged to write directly to **Dr. Sean McMahon** ([smcmahon@staffmail.ed.ac.uk](mailto:smcmahon@staffmail.ed.ac.uk))

Over 40 PhD projects in planetary science around the UK  
**Spread sheet**

PhD position in geomicrobiology at the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research

*January 20th*



*please send us your job advertisements!*

# Member Publications



Aurelli, L., Pacelli, C., Cassaro, A., Fujimori, A., Moeller, R., & Onofri, S. (2020). Iron ion particle radiation resistance of dried colonies of *Cryomyces antarcticus* embedded in Martian regolith analogues. *Life*, 10(12), 306.

Baque, M., Napoli, A., Fagiarone, C., Moeller, R., de Vera, J.P., & Billi, D. (2020). Carotenoid raman signatures are better preserved in dried cells of the desert cyanobacterium *Chroococcidiopsis* than in hydrated counterparts after high-dose gamma irradiation. *Life*, 10(6), 83.

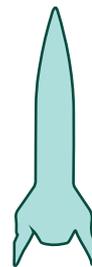
Hickman-Lewis, K., Westall, F., & Cavalazzi, B. (2020). Diverse Communities of Bacteria and Archaea flourished in Palaeoarchaeon (3.5-3.3 Ga) microbial mats. *Palaeontology*, 63(6), 1007-1033.

Pacelli, C., Cassaro, A., Aurelli, L., Moeller, R., Fujimori, A., & Onofri, S. (2020). The responses of black fungus *Cryomyces antarcticus* to high doses of accelerated helium ions radiation within Martian regolith simulants and their relevance for Mars. *Life*, 10(8), 130.

Taubner, R.S., Olsson-Francis, K., Vance, S.D., Ramkissoon, N.K., Postberg, F., de Vera, J.P., ... & Barge, L. (2020). Experimental and simulation efforts in the astrobiological exploration of exooceans. *Space Science Review*, 216(1), 9.

Please send us your recent publications to be showcased in the next newsletter!

*EANA 20th Anniversary Outstanding Paper Award*



Dedicated to the 20th anniversary of EANA comes the EANA'21 Outstanding Paper Award. More information coming soon.

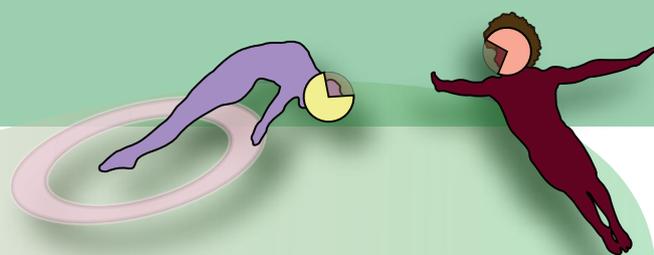
## Online courses & webinars

- Sante Fe Institute Complexity Explorer [Origins of Life course](#)
- Online courses in astrobiology from the International Astronomical Union
- Origins Center webinars

## In other news...

AbGradE is developing a new Microsoft Teams space to promote working groups and collaboration for early-career astrobiologists. It will be a space for astronomers to talk to geologists, for chemists to inquire about biological processes, etc. Think of it as a sort of ResearchGate but for early-career researchers. It will also be a space for inquiries, collaborations, group projects, white papers, proposals, and anything else you want to make it. Our plan is to make the scaffolding, but the content will need to come from you.

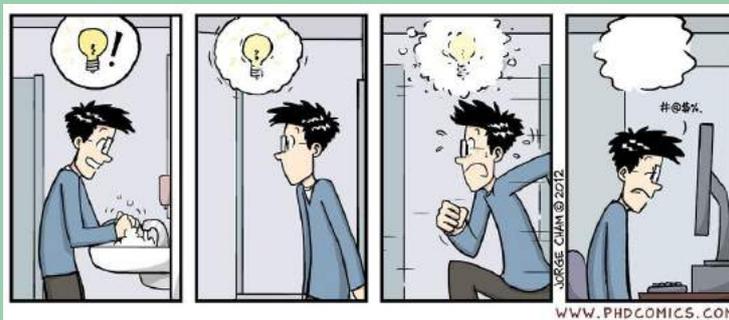
With your input, we hope the space will grow organically into an online community where we can learn from each other and advance our field. Stay tuned for more!



If you are interested in an AbGradE collaborative online space, please let us know by filling out this form! You do not need a Microsoft account to participate.



Fill me out!





# Resources

AbGradE contact: [abgrade@eana-net.eu](mailto:abgrade@eana-net.eu)

European Astrobiology Network Association (EANA): [eana-net.eu](http://eana-net.eu)

European Astrobiology Institute (EAI): [europeanastrobiology.eu](http://europeanastrobiology.eu)

Europlanet Society: [europlanet-society.org](http://europlanet-society.org)

Europlanet early-career (EPEC): [europlanet-society.org/early-careers-network](http://europlanet-society.org/early-careers-network)

Astrobiology Graduate Conference (AbGradCon): [abgradcon.org](http://abgradcon.org)

OoLEN (Origin of Life Early-career Network): [oolen.org](http://oolen.org)

Rencontres Exobiologiques pour Doctorants (RED): [www.exobiologie.fr/red/index.php/en/](http://www.exobiologie.fr/red/index.php/en/)



ESA

NAI

Other newsletters to join

Origins Center

Planetary Exploration (PEN)

Astrochemical (UBordeaux)

ExoPlanetNews

