ExoExplorers Introduction

Tiffany Kataria
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology
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Motivation and Inception

• **Visibility**: The COVID-19 pandemic has limited opportunities for early career scientists to promote their work and interface with the larger community. Aim to create an internal and external network for early career scientists.

• **Inclusion**: We want to amplify early career scientists, especially those in underserved/underrepresented communities
  • Inclusion is one of NASA’s core values

• **Science**: Use the framework of the ExEP Science Gap List to serve as a touchstone for science talks.

*Program serves broader exoplanet community, enabled by support from ExEP and ExoPAG*
Motivation and Inception

- **Main goal throughout:** Enable contact between our early career cohort and exoplanet scientists in the community

- **Core team:**
  - *Steering Committee (SC)* – consists of current/former members of the ExoPAG EC that shape selection criteria, evaluate the ExoExplorer applications and make recommendations for selection
  - *Organizing Committee (OC)* – coordinates logistics (WebEx meetings, surveys, emails, etc)

- **Careful discussions about recruitment, advertising and evaluation**
  - Aim for broad recruitment and advertisement
  - Include applicants not only in pure research, but also developing technology that enables science
  - Ensure call for applications traces well to selection criteria/rubric
  - All cohort applicants can schedule a 30-min debrief on their application upon request
Components of ExoExplorers Program

1. Speaker Series
   • ExoExplorer talks
     • First talk of 2022 cohort: Fri Jan 21\textsuperscript{st}, 2022 at 11am PDT/2pm EDT
   • 1-1 meetings with prominent scientists of their choosing
   • ExoGuide talks and informal discussions with ExoExplorers
   • ExoExplorer and ExoGuide talks are recorded and posted to the website: https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/exoexplorers/exoexplorers-presentations/

2. Professional Development Activities
   • Professional development workshops recommended by the cohort

3. Building an Internal Network
   • Forums for regular interaction (Slack, coffee/social hours)
Updates for 2022 cohort

• Expanding program to international ExoExplorers and ExoGuides
  • As a result, expanding cohort to maximum 12 participants
  • **2022 ExoExplorer applicants**: 65 total applications, 12 selected (1 international)
  • **2022 ExoGuide applicants**: 10 applications, 4 selected (1 international)

• Debrief with 2021 cohort yielded important lessons learned
  • More back and forth engagement between cohort/core team and cohort/ExoGuides
  • We should be learning from them as much as they are learning from us
  • Eventually adding in-person, live component
2022 ExoExplorers cohort

Meet the ExoExplorers: https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/exoexplorers/exoexplorers-2021/

Munazza Alam (Carnegie EPL)
Aida Behmard (Caltech)
Kiersten Boley (OSU)
Aarynn Carter (UCSC)
Quadry Chance (Univ. of Florida)
Matthew Clement (Carnegie EPL)
Leonardo dos Santos (STScI)
Alison Farrish (GSFC)
Briley Lewis (UCLA)
Romy Rodriguez (OSU)
Julia Seidel (ESO/Chile)
Eckhart Spalding (Notre Dame)
2022 ExoGuides
ExoGuides: Prominent exoplanet scientists that engage with cohort
Meet the ExoGuides: https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/exoexplorers/exoexplorers-exoguides/

José Caballero
(Spanish Centro de Astrobiología)

Bruce Macintosh
(Stanford University)

Elisa Quintana
(NASA GSFC)

Sarah Rugheimer
(Oxford University)
Within cohort
- We sent each ExoExplorer two anonymous surveys
  - At the beginning of program: Conduct self assessment, solicit their goals, poll their interests for professional development
  - At the end of the program: Allow them to re-evaluate and provide feedback on program activities

Within exoplanet community
- 50-100 attendees for each set of ExoExplorer talks
- NExScI tweet tracking
  - 8,000-50,000 Impressions (Total # of times tweets were displayed/delivered in timeline or search result)
  - 50-500 Total Engagements (media engagements, detail expands, likes, retweets, link clicks, profile clicks)
2022 ExoExplorers Talk Schedule

First ExoExplorers 2022 talks: Jan 11, 2022 at 11am PDT/2pm EDT

Other ExoExplorer talk dates: 3rd Friday of each month at 11am PT/2pm ET:

- Feb 18th: Leonardo dos Santos and Quadry Chance
- March 18th: Romy Rodriguez Martinez and Eckhart Spalding
- April 15th: Julia Seidel and Briley Lewis
- May 20th: Alison Farrish and Kiersten Boley
- June 17th: Aarynn Carter and Aida Behmard

Full abstracts on ExoExplorers website
Save the date: AAS Special Session

2021 Cohort independently organized a AAS Special Session entitled “The ExoExplorers: Early-Career Perspectives on the Intersection of Exoplanet Science and DEI in Astronomy”

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday January 11 at 2-3:30pm

Will be postponed to 241st AAS Meeting, 8–12 January 2023, Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA
Soliciting broader community feedback

• Anonymous feedback form
  • https://forms.gle/DQ3er5bZnaPYhRhz8

All feedback is welcome!
Thank you

• Thank you to ExEP, ExoPAG, and NASA HQ for continued support
• Thanks to the SC and OC for their hard work for another exciting year
• And thanks to all of you for your attendance and participation!

Any questions? Email exoexplorers_questions@jpl.nasa.gov

Sign up for ExoExplorers announcements here:
https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/exoexplorers/exoexplorers-announcements/