

PATHWAYS TOWARDS HABITABLE PLANETS

September 14th-18th, 2009
Barcelona, Spain

<http://www.pathways2009.net>

Second announcement and call for proposals for satellite meetings

Dear Colleagues,

Registration is now open for the Pathways Towards Habitable Planets conference to be held next September 14-18 in Barcelona, Spain.

One of the most important scientific challenges for the 21st century is the search of habitable worlds around other stars, and the characterization of their atmospheres with the goal of detecting signs of biological activity. This is a long-term, interdisciplinary endeavor, engaging astrophysicists, biologists, planetary scientists, and instrument scientists. Eventually, space missions will address those questions, however today we need to start making intermediate steps. The aim of this conference is to help integrate the prospective efforts in Europe and in the US, build a community around this theme, and bring together several pathways towards that final goal.

The conference will include introductory lectures, invited talks, contributed talks and posters on the major scientific topics listed below, as well as public talks. The conference is sponsored in part by the Spanish CSIC, the Catalan IEEC, the NASA ExoPlanet Science Institute, and the Blue Dots initiative.

Important dates:

- May 15th: deadline for requesting financial support
- June 15th: deadline for early registration and abstract submission
- July 15th: publication of the final programme in the web
- July 15th: deadline for full refund (except for 15€ handling fee)
- September 14th-18th: conference
- November 15th: deadline for submission of proceedings
- Spring 2010: distribution of proceedings

We encourage you to visit the conference website (<http://www.pathways2009.net>) for further details, to submit your abstract, and register for the meeting.

Vincent Coudé du Foresto and Ignasi Ribas for the Scientific Organizing Committee
(soc@pathways2009.net)

Announcement of opportunity for satellite meetings

The venue chosen for the Pathways conference (CosmoCaixa science museum) makes it possible to hold a special session on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 5PM after the end of the main meeting. One session can be held in the main auditorium (312 seats) and two smaller rooms (60 seats) are also available in parallel. The nominal duration of a special session is 90 minutes.

We therefore welcome proposals to hold satellite meetings of specific interest in conjunction with the Pathways conference. The meetings can deal with a particular project or technique, explore in more depth a Pathways related science topic, or cover anything else that is relevant. They can take the form of a workshop, a panel, an open discussion, or any other appropriate format.

Organizers of the satellite meetings will benefit from the full exposure and logistics of the Pathways conference (except for the publication of proceedings), while maintaining editorial control on the meeting. Participants will have to register to the main conference even if they only attend the special sessions.

To propose a satellite meeting send an email before May 20th to soc@pathways2009.net with the following information:

- Name and contact of the main organizer
- Title and short rationale
- Tentative list of main speakers or participants
- Format description: number of sessions requested, room size requested, special needs (in which case a prior inquiry to establish feasibility is recommended)

The satellite meetings will be announced by June 5th.
