

Canadian Astrobiology Training Program

Annual Meeting

May 30, 2010 – June 01, 2010

Montreal, Canada

NSERC CREATE

McGill

**Canadian Astrobiology
Training Program**

<http://create-astrobiology.mcgill.ca/>

McMaster University

Western

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Funding provided by

NSERC CRSNG

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CSA ASC

Location

Lorne M. Trottier Building
Room 2100 and 2110

McGill University
3630 University Street
Montreal, QC
H3A 2B2, CANADA

Sponsors

Canadian Space Agency

McGill University

- Agenda -**Sunday May 30****6:00 PM – 7:30 PM****Informal Icebreaker****Biddle's – Maison du Jazz**
2060 Aylmer H3A 2E3**Monday May 31****8:30 AM – 9:00 AM****Welcome & Introductory
Statements**Given by **Lyle Whyte** – McGill**9:00-10:30 AM****CATp Co-Investigators and
Collaborators meeting** chaired
by **Lyle Whyte** – McGill**HQP Skills-building Session:**
Susan Molnar (Career Planning
Service, McGill), **David Syncox**
(Graduate and Postdoctoral
Studies, McGill), **Vicky Hipkin**
(Canadian Space Agency)**10:30 AM – 10:45 AM****Coffee Break** – Trottier Lobby**10:45 AM – 11:00 AM****Astrobiology in the upper
echelon: an update on NASA
activities**Given by **Barbara Sherwood
Lollar** – Toronto**11:00 AM – Noon****CATp HQP Science
presentations:**Chaired by **Nadia Mykytczuk** –
McGill**11:00 AM – 11:20 AM**

M. Angelopoulos – McGill

“Integrative geophysical
approach for the detection and
assessment of massive ground ice
at Parsons Lake, Northwest
Territories”**11:20 PM – 11:40 PM**

Y. Hasegawa – McMaster

“Amino acid formation on icy
grains in protoplanetary disks”**11:40 PM – Noon**

C. Omelon – UWO

“How do we search for
biogsignatures? A microscopic
approach”

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Catered Lunch – Trottier Lobby

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	CATp HQP Science presentations	Chaired by Chris Omelon – UWO
1:30 PM – 1:50 PM	H. Sapers – UWO	“Between rock and a hard place: Investigating potential bioalteration of impact glass”
1:50 PM – 2:10 PM	L. Li – Toronto	“Nitrogen cycling in the Canadian Shield: preliminary results”
2:10 PM – 2:30 PM	L. Ziolkowski – McMaster	"Microbial and isotopic characterization of endolithic communities"

2:30 PM – 3:30PM	CATp HQP Science Shorts	Chaired by Long Li – Toronto
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	N. Mykytczuk – McGill	"Axel Heiberg-omics: Molecular insights into microbial sulfur and methane signatures from sub-zero saline springs"
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	M. Izawa – UWO	'Mineralogical Astrobiology”
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	A. Pontefract – UWO	"Impact craters as habitats for Life"
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM	L. Loiselle – UWO	"Characterization of biominerals associated with the Rio Tinto river, Spain"

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Afternoon Refreshments – Trottier Lobby	
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4:00 PM – 5:45 PM	CATp HQP Science Shorts	Chaired by Lori Ziolkowski – McMaster
4:00 PM – 4:15 PM	L. Thomson – UWO	“Ground penetrating radar as a tool for characterizing ground ice in the Canadian high Arctic"

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM	Chih-Ying Lay– McGill	“Microbial analyses of an Arctic perennial saline spring”
4:30 PM – 4:45 PM	L. Leoni – McMaster	“Microbial carbon cycling in the Golden Deposit, N.W.T., Canada: An analogue to sulfate deposits on Mars”
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM	M. Battler – UWO	"Mineralogy of the Lost Hammer spring, Axel Heiberg Island, Nunavut”
5:00 PM – 5:15 PM	D. Vukosavljevic – UWO	“Possible Archean mineral/microbial interactions: Laboratory model of microbial growth on serpentinized and non-serpentinized mineral surfaces”
5:15 PM – 5:30 PM	A. Pellerin – McGill	“How evolution may affect S isotope fractionation”

7:30PM	Dinner for CATp Co-Investigators, Collaborators, and PDFs	Location TBA hosted by Lyle Whyte – McGill
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Tuesday June 1

8:30 AM-10:30 AM	CATp Co-Investigators and Collaborators meeting chaired by Lyle Whyte – McGill	HQP CATp Feedback Discussion (led by PDFs) followed by a presentation by Roman Kruzelecky (MPB) @ 9:30 AM – introduced by Ed Cloutis – Winnipeg
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10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Coffee Break – Trottier Lobby	
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11:45 AM – Noon	Group Photo taken on Trottier patio (or in Trottier Lobby in case of rain)	
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11:00 AM – Noon	Invited Speaker – Javier Gomez-Elvira , Vice Director, Head of Robotics and Planetary Exploration Lab, Centro de Astrobiologia (CSIC-INTA)	Introduced by Hojatollah Vali – McGill Title: “ The CAB and instrumentation for Astrobiology ”
Noon – 1:30 PM	Catered Lunch – Trottier Lobby	
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	CATp Co-I and Collaborator New Science Opportunities – 5 min apiece	Chaired by Gordon Osinski – UWO
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Breakout Topic Discussion / Breakout Group Definition chaired by Ed Cloutis – Winnipeg	HQP CATp Feedback & Evaluation (led by PDFs)
3:00 PM – 5:30PM	Breakout Group Discussions / Summary Writing	
Tentative Breakout Group Topics:	1) Aligning Astrobiological Research at MARS	Wayne Pollard – McGill
	2) Research Rotations: the Way Forward in the Field and Lab	Jay Nadeau - McGill
	3) Astrobiology Field Schools/Short Courses	Neil Banerjee – UWO
	4) Canadian Astrobiology after CATp	Gordon Southam – UWO

Agenda Details-

CATp Co-I/Collaborators Meetings:

Lyle Whyte will circulate detailed agendas for these meetings.

HQP Skills-building Sessions:

These sessions focus on the unique challenges facing HQP in an interdisciplinary program like Astrobiology. Presentations by McGill professionals will be supported by presentations by space-science types from outside the academic realm, with the hopes of providing our HQP with an idea of the non-academic astrobiological opportunities out there. Vicky Hipkin of the CSA will give this presentation on the first day and by Roman Krizelecky of MPB will give this presentation on the second day.

HQP Science Presentations:

Six HQP presenters who are at a more advanced stage of their research/careers will give an overview their projects within the CATp. These overviews should be structured as a traditional presentation of about 15 minutes long, leaving 5 minutes for questions. Other HQP will give brief presentations on the research they plan to do as CATp trainees. The format of these presentations will be informal, with plenty of opportunity for dialog between the audience and the presenter. The idea is to give the new HQP a chance to get their ideas out there so that they can receive feedback on them. Towards this end, there will be a hard limit on the length of these presentations of 10 minutes. Prepare to be interrupted!

Invited Speaker:

Javier Gomez-Elvira of the Centro de Astrobiología in Madrid will be attending the meeting as an invited speaker. He will be presenting on the astrobiological research activities at the Centro as well as on collaborative opportunities for folks in the CATp.

Dinner:

We will be reserving dinner seating at a choice Montreal establishment for CATp co-investigators, collaborators, and PDFs. Lyle Whyte will host.

Co-I and Collaborator New Science Opportunities:

This session provides a chance for the co-Is and collaborators to discuss research rotation opportunities associated with ongoing and planned projects in their labs. The hope is for brief evocative presentations that get HQP excited about traveling between different labs.

HQP Feedback / Evaluation:

This session provides a forum for HQP to offer their take on how the program is going so far, and to make suggestions on how it may be improved. Our PDFs will lead this session, and will be responsible for drafting the summary report that results from it.

Reimbursement of Expenses:

Your questions regarding this process may be addressed directly to the CATP Project Coordinator (Mr. Robert Oxley) who has the necessary forms for you to fill out and submit to him.

Breakout Groups:

The final afternoon session of the meeting is set up to produce in brief summary reports on concrete initiatives for improving the CATp. The hope is that we can identify some potential discussion topics prior to the meeting, finalize these topics and the make-up of the breakout groups at the meeting, and produce written recommendations for implementation of the initiatives by the end of the meeting. These recommendations will be as specific as possible and tasked to different CATp participants.

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This is the last page of the Agenda