

Plenary Talk

## EXOPLANET ATMOSPHERIC CHARACTERIZATION AND THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

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Placing the solar system in the context of other planetary systems is one of the central objectives driving the study of extrasolar planets. One of the most fascinating questions in modern science is whether other life-bearing planets exist. In this talk I will review the current state of the art of exoplanet research and discuss future ways to probe biomarker gases in Earth-like exoplanets that could point to biological activity.