

A two-page (maximum) cover letter indicating interest in and qualifications for serving on NASA-DARES TF2, including relevant scientific, technical, and management experience as it relates to the nine Focus Areas (Focus Area 9: Astrobiology in Society) or similar strategic planning activities.

The cover letter may also describe prior contributions to NASA, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, or other community-based strategic planning efforts. Applicants who are willing to serve as a Co-Chair or Focus Area Lead should clearly state their interest and provide a rationale for why they are well suited for the role, referencing specific expertise, leadership skills, and relevant experience.

Maximum document length is 2 pages with a font size 12, not to exceed 15 characters per horizontal inch, including spaces, sans serif font recommended. Section page limits are not transferrable. Testing a citation here (Yeo et al., 2022).

I am writing to express my strong interest in serving as a NASA Decadal Astrobiology Research and Exploration Strategy (DARES) Task Force 2 member. My background, expertise, and leadership in science communication aligns well with Focus Area 9 (Astrobiology in Society) of NASA-DARES.

- Interest in continuing the conversations and work that I began as part of the CDSLU Scientific Organizing Committee (also section co-lead).
- My expertise is directly relevant to DARES Topic 8: “Topic 8: Prepare for the Discovery of Life Beyond Earth and Subsequent Post-Discovery Activities,” and Focus Area 9: “Astrobiology and Society.”
- Qualifications: Science communication researcher and expert. Add expertise and research interests. Reference *PUS* paper on #arseniclife.
- Participation on Planning Committee of CDSLU Workshop held in 2024 (check date).
- Contributed to the CDSLU “Workshop Report: Communicating Discoveries in the Search for Life in the Universe.” Co-led the writing and organization of the section on “Surprises, Disconnects, Misunderstandings” (Bimm et al., forthcoming).
- STEMAP Director position as one that is focused on societal impacts of research—offers a bird’s eye view of the societal impacts landscape.
- Served on Steering Committee for SciPEP.
- Serve on Standing Committee for Advancing Science Communication in the National Academies.
- Serve on the Board on Life Sciences in NASEM.

References

- Bimm, J., Voytek, M., Scharf, C., Billings, L., Suldovsky, B., Wolfe-Simon, F., Cable, M., Yeo, S. K., Xenos, M. A., Segura, A., Berea, A., Anbar, A., Kaufman, M., Meadows, V., Graham, H., Cartier, K., Sheikh, S., Nováková, J., Ockert, I., & Determann, J. (forthcoming). Workshop Report: Communicating Discoveries in the Search for Life in the Universe. *Astrobiology*.
- Yeo, S. K., Becker, A. B., Cacciatore, M. A., Anderson, A. A., & Patel, K. (2022). Humor can increase perceived communicator effectiveness regardless of race, gender, and expertise—if you are funny enough. *Science Communication*, 44(5), 593–620. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10755470221132278>