Thank you to Rich Zurek for 14 terrific years as Mars Exploration Program Principal Scientist!

• Helped architect the science strategy for the Mars program through “Follow the Water”, “Explore Habitability”, and “Seek Signs of Life” phases
• Guided multiple missions through prime mission and extended mission status via PMSR process
• Rich is continuing on in an emeritus role while Michael Mischna comes up to speed as the new MEP Principal Scientist
• Also continuing his role as the MRO Project Scientist
Michael Mischna background info

• 2004-present: JPL Research Scientist
  • Research focus: Mars climate and atmosphere, numerical modeling (GCM/mesoscale), volatile cycling, surface/subsurface exchange
  • Author of 70+ publications, 200+ conference abstracts, 5 book chapters

• 2010-21: Supervisor, Planetary and Exoplanetary Atmospheres Group, JPL

• 2016-21: Deputy Chief Scientist/Associate Directorate Scientist, Planetary Science Directorate, JPL

• Mars mission activities
  • ‘Council of Atmospheres’: Phoenix, MSL, InSight, M2020
  • Surface Operations: MSL, Ingenuity
  • Mars Sample Return: SFR planning

• MEPAG engagement
  • Supporting Research and Technology Science Analysis Group (SRT-SAG)
  • Ice and Climate Evolution Science Analysis Group (ICE-SAG)

• President, Planetary Sciences Section, American Geophysical Union

Many years (and follicles) ago...
Graduate school, UCLA 1999, Mars Polar Lander landing day.