



Dr. Chris McKay

Planetary Scientist at NASA Ames Research Center

Dr. Chris McKay received his Ph.D. in AstroGeophysics from the University of Colorado in 1982. His research focuses on the evolution of the solar system and the origin of life. He is also actively involved in planning for future Mars missions including human exploration. He has been involved with polar and desert research, traveling to the Antarctic Dry Valleys, the Atacama Desert, the Arctic, and the Namib Desert to conduct research in these Mars-like environments.

Dr. McKay has done extensive research on planetary atmospheres, particularly the atmospheres of Titan and Mars, and on the origin and evolution of life. He is a co-investigator on the Huygens probe, the Mars Phoenix lander, and the Mars Science Laboratory. He has also performed field research on extremophiles, in such locations as Death Valley, the Atacama Desert, Axel Heiberg Island, and ice-covered lakes in Antarctica.

In addition to his professional work, McKay is a member of the board of directors of the Planetary Society and also works with the Mars Society. He has written and spoken extensively on space exploration and terraforming. He is also an adviser for the Microbes Mind Forum.