

About me:

This is my bio for an astrobiology conference in Oxford in 2015

“ Robert has had a long term special interest in astronomy, and space science since the 1970s, and most of these blog posts currently are about Mars and space exploration. He is the programmer for for Tune Smithy, Bounce Metronome, Virtual flower, Lissajous 3D, and Activity Timer. Robert trained as a mathematician originally and received a high first class honours degree in maths. Went on to study philosophy (second undergraduate degree completed with two years study instead of three), then to do post graduate research into set theory and foundations of mathematics. He then got involved in programming music after he invented a particular type of fractal tune based on self similar sloth canon sequences.”

My presentation for that conference is here

["Super Positive" Outcomes For Search for Life In Enceladus and Europa Oceans - Robert Walker](#)

I haven't yet had anything published in astrobiology journals, but plan to submit this paper for publication in the near future, provisional title:

- [NASA and ESA are likely to be legally required to sterilize Mars samples to protect the environment through to 2039, or until proven safe – technology doesn't yet exist to comply with ESF study's requirement to contain viable starved ultramicrobacteria, and legal process followed by build and training of technicians takes at least 17 years - proposal to study samples remotely in a safe high orbit above GEO with miniature life detection instruments – and immediately return sterilized subsamples to Earth](#)

I also have a blog on Science 2.0 where I write blog posts on many topics and have often blogged about planetary protection in the past.

For some of my blog posts at Science 2.0 on this topic of protection of Earth for a Mars sample return:

- [Will First Mars Astronauts Stay In Orbit - Tele-operating Sterile Rovers - To Protect Earth And Mars From Colliding Biospheres?](#)
- [Let's Make Sure Astronauts Won't Extinguish Native Mars Life - Op Ed](#)

- [Likely 2040 Before Mars Samples Returned Safely, Legally -Yet Not Likely To Return Life - Needs To Be Detected In Situ First](#)
- [Protecting Mars - And Earth - From What - And Why Bother? Our Inheritance Of Unopened Astrobiological Treasure Chests](#)
- [Will First Mars Astronauts Stay In Orbit - Tele-operating Sterile Rovers - To Protect Earth And Mars From Colliding Biospheres?](#)

And here is my free self-published online book on planetary protection where I expand on many of these themes.

- [OK to Touch Mars? Europa? Enceladus? Or a Tale of Missteps?](#)