FUTURE MARS EXPLORATION
1:30 p.m. Ramo Auditorium

Chairs: A. L. Albee
J. B. Garvin

1:30–2:00 p.m. Garvin J. B. * McCleese D. J.
This paper describes a roadmap to the next ~20 years of Mars exploration from the NASA viewpoint. The design of the newly restructured strategy is attentive to risks and a major attempt to instill resiliency in the program.

2:00–2:30 p.m. Chicarro A. F. * Science Team
The Mars Express Mission and Its Beagle-2 Lander [#3049]
An overview of the Mars Express mission, and in particular the scientific investigations onboard its orbiter and the Beagle-2 lander, will be presented with particular emphasis on the search for water and traces of life.

2:30–3:00 p.m. Golombek M. * Grant J. Parker T. Kass D. Crisp J. Squyres S. Adler M. Haldemann A. Carr M. Arvidson R. Weitz C. Zurek R.
Mars Exploration Rover Landing Site Selection [#3222]
After over two years of research and analysis, sites in Meridiani Planum and Gusev crater have been selected for landing the Mars Exploration Rovers. Both sites appear acceptably safe and have strong indicators of liquid water in their past.

3:00–3:30 p.m. Greeley R. *
Gusev Crater, Mars, as a Landing Site for the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) Project [#3286]
Gusev crater is about 160 km in diameter, centered at 184.5 W, 14.3 S, in the southern cratered highlands near the border with the northern lowlands. The floor of this impact crater has been approved as a landing site for MER.

3:30–4:00 p.m. Arvidson R. E. *
Science Rationale Associated with the Mars Exploration Rover Meridiani Planum Landing Site [#3289]
The Meridiani Planum Mars Exploration Rover landing site is located on smooth plains that expose the top stratum of a wide-spread layered complex that overlies Noachian cratered terrain. This top unit is interpreted from MOS TES spectra to exhibit up to 15% by area of gray crystalline hematite, mixed with basaltic materials.

4:00–4:30 p.m. Zurek R. W. *
The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) Mission [#3290]
In August 2005, NASA’s Mars Exploration Program (MEP) will launch the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) to Mars. Carrying a suite of six science instruments, UHF radio relay, and two technology demonstration packages, the MRO Mission pursues the NASA MEP “Follow the Water” strategy through a series of remote sensing observations.