

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Art Sussman received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Princeton University. He continued to perform scientific research at Oxford University, Harvard Medical School, and the University of California. For the past 30 years, he has helped teachers, students, and the general public understand science as it affects them in their daily lives.

Dr. Art works at WestEd (one of ten regional education laboratories created by Congress) to improve science education at local, state, and national levels. In 2008, he helped revise the Washington State Science Standards, providing major input for Systems K-12, Life Science K-12, and the coordination of the 6-8 Grade Span.

He wrote the award-winning books "Dr. Art's Guide to Planet Earth" and "Dr. Art's Guide to Science: Connecting Atoms, Galaxies, and Everything in Between" (www.guidetoscience.net). Dr. Art presents at conferences and science centers nationally and internationally. Find out why Dr. Jane Goodall wrote, "Art Sussman joyfully teaches the science we all need to know, and inspires people of all ages to think deeply about who they are and what they do."

Dr. Christopher P. McKay, Planetary Scientist with the Space Science Division of NASA Ames. Chris received his Ph.D. in AstroGeophysics from the University of Colorado in 1982 and has been a research scientist with the NASA Ames Research Center since that time. His current 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. Chris been involved in research in Mars-like environments on Earth, traveling to the Antarctic dry valleys, Siberia, the Canadian Arctic, and the Atacama desert to study life in these Mars-like environments. His was a co-I on the Titan Huygen's probe in 2005, the Mars Phoenix lander mission for 2007, and the Mars Science Lander mission for 2009.



Beth Amsbary is a storyteller, theatre artist and science educator. Using the arts as a tool for communicating science and humanities topics, Beth has performed and led workshops at venues as varied as the Space Telescope Science Institute, old growth forests, graveyards, and café-toriums in schools across the Northwest. A five year stint supervising the planetarium and science stage at Pacific Science Center led to the creation of Beth's newest piece *Emma Darwin's Helpful Suggestions for Surviving Life with a Scientist*, premiering in 2009 for Darwin's 200th birthday.