

CoPP December 2024: Selected Highlights

- The Committee recognizes the OPP's success in integrating planetary protection (PP) science and policy across the agency, engaging scientific and commercial stakeholders, supporting the Europa Clipper mission to its successful launch, and advancing scientific research for PP (e.g., by facilitating access to NASA's microbial archive). And the new logo rocks!
- The Committee welcomes the OPP's revised NASA handbook on PP and will provide input on it for the OPP at the CoPP's Spring 2025 meeting.
- The Committee appreciates learning about the PP research underway under SMD's ROSES program, looks forward to continued interaction with such research, and will share more feedback with SMD and OPP on the funded research portfolio (e.g., prioritization and addressing development paths).
- The Committee looks forward to following the progress in prioritizing and closing the gaps on forward contamination challenges facing human missions to Mars.
- The Committee looks forward to future updates on backward planetary protection for Mars Sample Return.
- The Committee will monitor the impacts on PP of national space policies and legislative activities on the authorization and supervision of nongovernmental space activities and, as appropriate under its tasks, share with OPP the CoPP's perspectives on policy and legal developments .