

Editor's Summary

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Life class

In *The Living Cosmos*, Chris Impey outlines current thinking on how and where we should look for signs of extraterrestrial life. In its 50-year history the science of astrobiology — or exobiology — has made great strides, fuelled by a series of successful Solar System probes. But, as Bruce Jakosky's book review points out, the future of the field will depend on the development of new technologies.

Though if a Mars sample return mission does find a slot in NASA's post-2010 plans, perhaps a new edition of *The Living Cosmos* will be on the cards.

Books and Arts: Quest for extraterrestrial life