

Astrobiology Collaboration Award: “Bacteria-virus evolution in hypersaline environments”

As part of this Early Career Astrobiology Collaboration award with Dr. Scott Perl, Taylor Burchard traveled to the Mojave Desert to examine and collect salt mineral deposits that contained surface and subsurface microorganisms and preserved organics. Prior to this fieldwork, Taylor, Scott, and colleagues traveled to the Salton Sea (Riverside County, CA, USA) to collect samples for lithium biomarker analyses from the lake-shoreline boundary. Finally, Taylor, alongside her co-advisor Dr. Perl presented separate research investigations at the Tenth International Conference on Mars (California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA).

