



San Mateo County Astronomical Society



[Home](#) [Announcements](#) [Meetings](#) [Star Parties](#) [Calendar](#) [Newsletter](#) [Membership](#) [Contact](#) [About](#)

SMCAS General Meeting and Presentation on Friday April 6, 2018

Dr Franck Marchis

Senior Scientist, Exoplanet Research Group Director, SETI

Another Pale Blue Dot: The SETI Institute's Search for Exoplanets

Friday, May 4, 2018, [College of San Mateo, Building 36](#)

SMCAS General meeting at 7:00 p.m. ISC Room, room 110

Presentation at 8:00 p.m. [Planetarium](#)

Free and open to the public, free parking (recommend lots 5 or 6).

In only two decades, we've gone from the mere speculation about planets beyond our solar system (exoplanets) to being able to observe them through a variety of methods. Dr. Franck Marchis, Planetary Astronomer and chair of the exoplanet group at the SETI Institute will discuss new and sophisticated projects which aim to image directly those exoplanets. Future instruments could soon deliver an image of a cousin of Earth, or another Pale Blue Dot, a planet similar to our own.



Dr. Franck Marchis is a Senior Scientist and Exoplanet Research Thrust Chair at the SETI Institute. Franck earned his Phd in Astrophysics at the Université Paul Sabatier, France, in 2000. He is a planetary astronomer with 17 years of experience in academic, international and non-profit scientific institutions and has conducted multiple research projects in a wide range of areas. He is best known for his discovery and characterization of multiple asteroids, his study of Io volcanism and imaging of exoplanets, planets around other stars. Today, Marchis dedicates most of his energy to instruments capable of imaging and characterizing Earth-like exoplanets by being involved in education, public outreach, technology, and scientific investigations related to those ambitious projects both in the United States and in Europe. Marchis is also involved in startups related to astronomy so he is a co-founder of Unistellar and its Chief Scientific Officer as well as scientific advisor of VR2Planets and NellyBenHayoun Studios.

In April 2007, the asteroid numbered 1989S08 was named "(6639) Marchis" in honor of his work in the field of multiple asteroids. He has also been a consultant and interviewee for several science documentaries for the Science channel, BBC, ARTE and news media in English, French and Spanish.