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Bioastronomy '99: A Synopsis, and An Updated Target List for Project Phoenix

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Every three years, Commission 51 of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) holds a week-long meeting that includes a number of sessions of interest to attendees of the SETI I and II sessions of the International Astronautical Congress. This paper summarizes the results presented at the Bioastronomy '99 Meeting held August 2-6 in Hawaii. The meeting theme was "A New Era for Bioastronomy". The sessions were titled Astronomical Origins of Solar Systems; Primitive Bodies and Planets of the Solar System; A Living Planet: Earth; Detecting Planets Around Other Stars; and Searching for Life.

The target star list for Project Phoenix has recently been updated to reflect: the greater fraction of time being allocated to observations at Arecibo Observatory with its limited zenith angle coverage, the results from the Hipparcos mission providing improved positional accuracies and distances, recent measurements of stellar ages from radial velocity searches for extra-solar planets, and an emphasis on stars within the galactic plane of the galaxy.