

Dr. Abel Mendez — Planetary Habitability Laboratory at University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo — Feb. 16, 2021, 7:00 pm <https://youtu.be/fIO0YOaoTac>. Bio: Professor Abel Méndez is a planetary astrobiologist and Director of the Planetary Habitability Laboratory at the University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo. His research focuses on the habitability of Earth, the Solar System, and extrasolar planets. Prof. Méndez is a NASA MIRS Fellow with physics and astrophysics research experience at Fermilab, NASA Goddard, NASA Ames, and the Arecibo Observatory. He is best known for developing the Earth Similarity Index, the Visible Paleo-Earth Project, and maintaining the Habitable Exoplanets Catalog, a database of potentially habitable worlds. He is also co-author of the popular science book *Searching for Habitable Worlds*. His research has been highlighted by many international publications such as National Geographic, Scientific American, and Discover Magazine. Prof. Méndez is currently working on theoretical models of the suitability for life of planetary environments, the characterization and detection of potentially habitable exoplanets, and the observation of radio emissions of red dwarf stars from the Arecibo Observatory. He is very active on Twitter sharing astrobiology news as @ProfAbelMendez.