

53rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –  
The Next Steps (A4)  
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”THE HISTORY OF THE SEARCH FOR LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE” - A DOCUMENTARY

**Abstract**

”The History of the Search for Life in the Universe” is an upcoming documentary that aims to take the general public on an exploratory journey through the ages, focusing on humanity’s quest to understand if we are alone in the universe. Slated for release in 2025, this film also serves to commemorate the centenary of the death of Camille Flammarion, a pioneering French astronomer whose work significantly contributed to popularizing astronomy and the search for extraterrestrial life. Produced by the French documentary company Good To Know, the documentary aims to delve into four distinct phases of human inquiry and imagination regarding life beyond Earth: the ancient interpretations of the cosmos during the Greek and Roman periods; the advancements and theories developed between the 18th and 20th centuries; the era of key space missions and the establishment of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI); and finally, the future challenges that lie ahead in our quest to discover extraterrestrial life away from our ”pale blue dot”. By summarizing the key elements of each era, the film aims to illustrate how our understanding and methodologies in searching for extraterrestrial life have evolved over time.

The documentary’s development process involves a meticulous protocol that combines historical research, scientific accuracy, and captivating storytelling to engage a broad audience. Good to Know has the specificity to have all its projects reviewed and greenlighted by a scientific committee before the start of any project development. The writing process, supervised by a team of experts in astronomy, history, and science communication, ensures that the narrative is both informative and accessible, making complex scientific concepts understandable to the general public. The documentary also places a strong emphasis on the educational and communicative goals of its release, aspiring to inspire a new generation of astronomers, scientists, and curious minds. Through this film, Good to Know intends to highlight the spirit of scientific research and discovery, emphasizing the importance of scientific inquiry in answering one of humanity’s most profound questions: What is life? And are we alone in the universe?

Good To Know, which is a relatively young documentary production company, eagerly seeks the opportunity to present the “History of the Search for Life in the Universe” documentary project to inform the IAC A4 attendees about this incredible History but also to gain valuable feedback from the IAC SETI community, instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness of the documentary’s efforts.