

Tullis C. Onstott

Professor of Geosciences

Ph.D., Princeton University, 1980



Research Interests

Over the last few years Onstott's research projects have been focused in two areas: (1) the transport of bacteria and other microorganisms in the subsurface, and (2) the activity and survival of bacteria and other microorganisms in the subsurface and their impact on the geochemistry and mineralogy of their environment.

Among the questions he is attempting to address are:

(1) How does large-scale migration of bacteria occur? (2) Do subsurface microorganisms evolve by adaption or selection? (3) Could life have originated in the subsurface? (4) What methods can be adapted to test for life in the Martian subsurface?

These projects have been and continue to be field based and require a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional approach. Field measurements, sample acquisition, laboratory analyses, and publication of results by geochemists, microbiologists, and molecular biologists have to be highly coordinated in order for the above questions to be addressed.

Areas of Expertise

Geomicrobiology, geochemistry, mineralogy

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