As one can imagine, while astrobiology is a relatively young field, it has a secure and promising future. Astrobiology research has a significant impact on how agencies such as NASA and the European Space Agency plan for current and future space missions. Many recent missions were launched with the aim of exploring worlds in our own solar system and finding signs of past, present, or the precursors of life, including Mars. One of the most famous missions was the Cassini mission, which gave us a better understanding of Saturn and its moons such as Titan. Today, we are waiting for the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope, which will allow us to begin searching for habitable planets outside our solar system.

Communicating the discoveries and excitement of astrobiology has been understood as a fundamental requirement since the early development of the field. Meeting this objective has taken various forms. One element was a common forum, embodied in the Astrobiology Science Conference held biennially, that today attracts over 800 scientists from over 30 fields. With meetings in 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2006 that have continued to grow in attendance, the conference remains a forum where scientists are encouraged to push the boundaries.

What about the future of astrobiology? On NASA's website, we can read: "The first decade of astrobiology has laid significant groundwork for the understanding of the genesis and evolution of life in the universe. Fieldwork has provided fossils, organisms, and ecosystems that have all led to significant insight into the early Earth, possible models for origins, and a huge expansion of the recognized environmental limits of life. Laboratory work, coupled with astronomical observation, has added another significant piece of the puzzle and continues to provide clues and refine models. Missions are just beginning to take astrobiology to entirely new levels of understanding. Given the timeless fascination with questions of the origins and prevalence of life, astrobiology will endure long into the future."