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Living in the extremes: the quest of an astrobiologist

Where do we come from? What is our future on Earth and beyond? Are we alone in the universe? None of these questions are by any means new. However, for the first time since they were posed thousands of years ago, these questions may now be answered. Dr Musilova's quest as an astrobiologist has taken her from all-nighters searching for extra-solar planets, doing planetary protection research at NASA, to performing biological experiments in the extremes of cold in Greenland and as far as being an analogue astronaut at the Mars Desert Research Station, USA. The multidisciplinary field of astrobiology is as varied as the research she has conducted so far, encompassing: astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology and engineering. With the help of her scientific adventures, Dr Musilova will explain how these different disciplines are used to understand the origin, evolution and the future of life in the universe. She will also introduce the current space projects of the Slovak Organisation for Space Activities (SOSA), which she is vice-chair of, including the first Slovakian satellite SkCube.