

Name: Diana Valencia
Email: valencia@astro.utoronto.ca
Institution: University of Toronto
Title: Low-Mass Planets in the Kepler Era
Invited Talk
Type: Characterizing Transiting Planets
Session:
Abstract: There are a growing number of small-sized planets with a measured mass, which allows us to better understand their composition and structure. Furthermore, the composition of a planet reflects the primordial chemical budget incorporated through formation processes and altered via early evolution processes such as atmospheric escape and giant impacts. It is now clear that in the range of low-mass planets (planets with masses between 1- 10 earth-masses) there are two populations: the volatile planets with non-negligible envelopes, and the high-density planets presumably made out of rocks. I will review what we have learned about these two types of planets in terms of their composition, including our limitations in knowledge, and how this information gives us clues to the formation and early evolution processes.