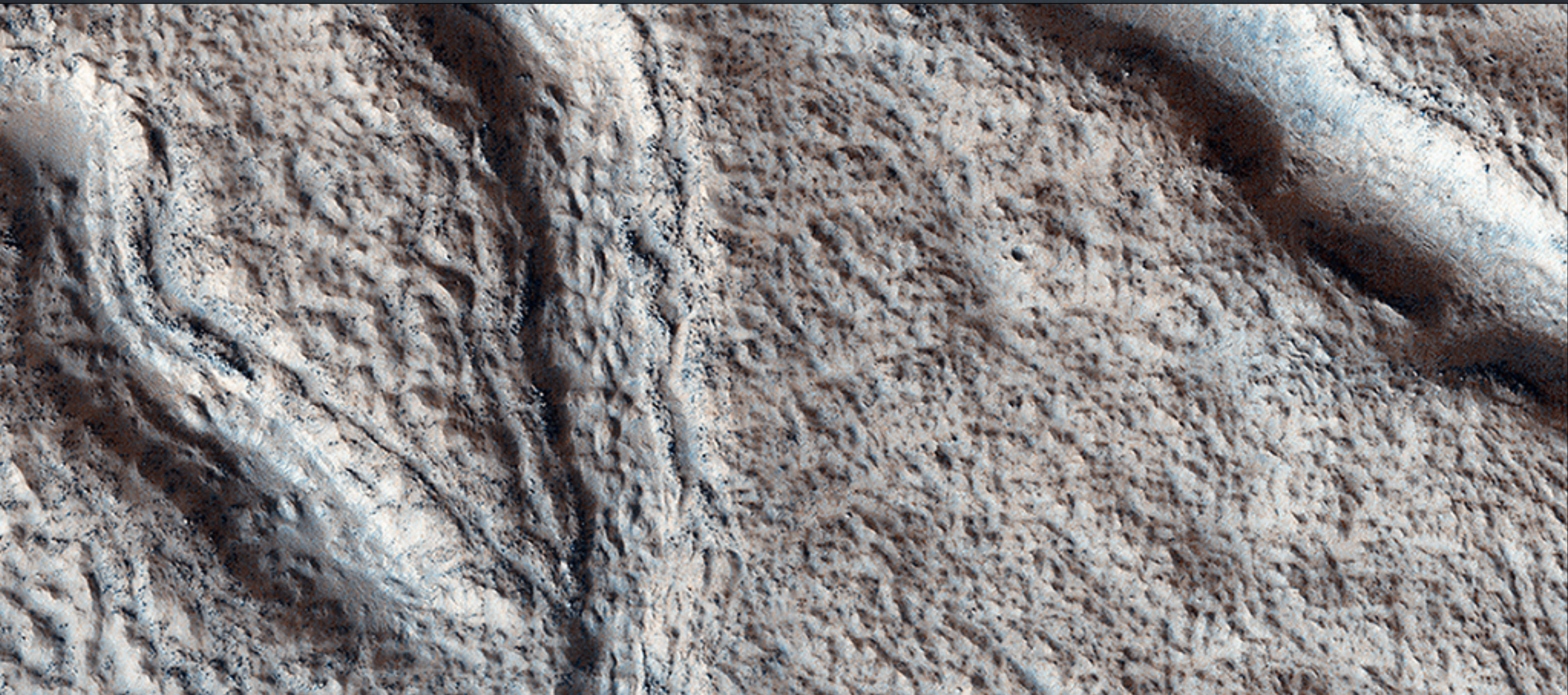


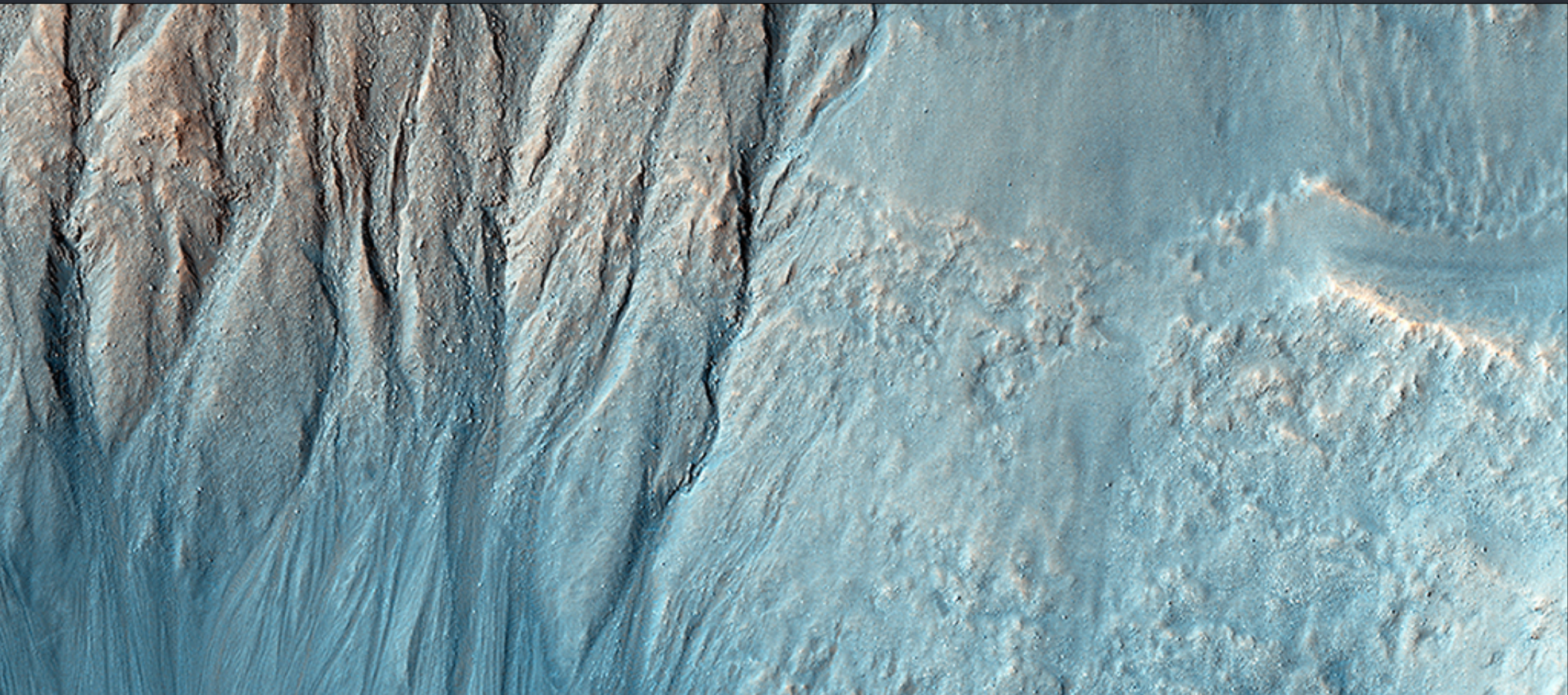
Ares 3 and “The Martian”

In “The Martian” by Andy Weir (watch for the movie in late 2015), stranded astronaut Mark Watney spends most of his time at the “Ares 3” site in southern Acidalia Planitia. The book describes Acidalia as flat and easy to drive over--he even drives to the Pathfinder landing site and back. This region of Mars is actually far more diverse, interesting, and hazardous to drive over than depicted in the novel.



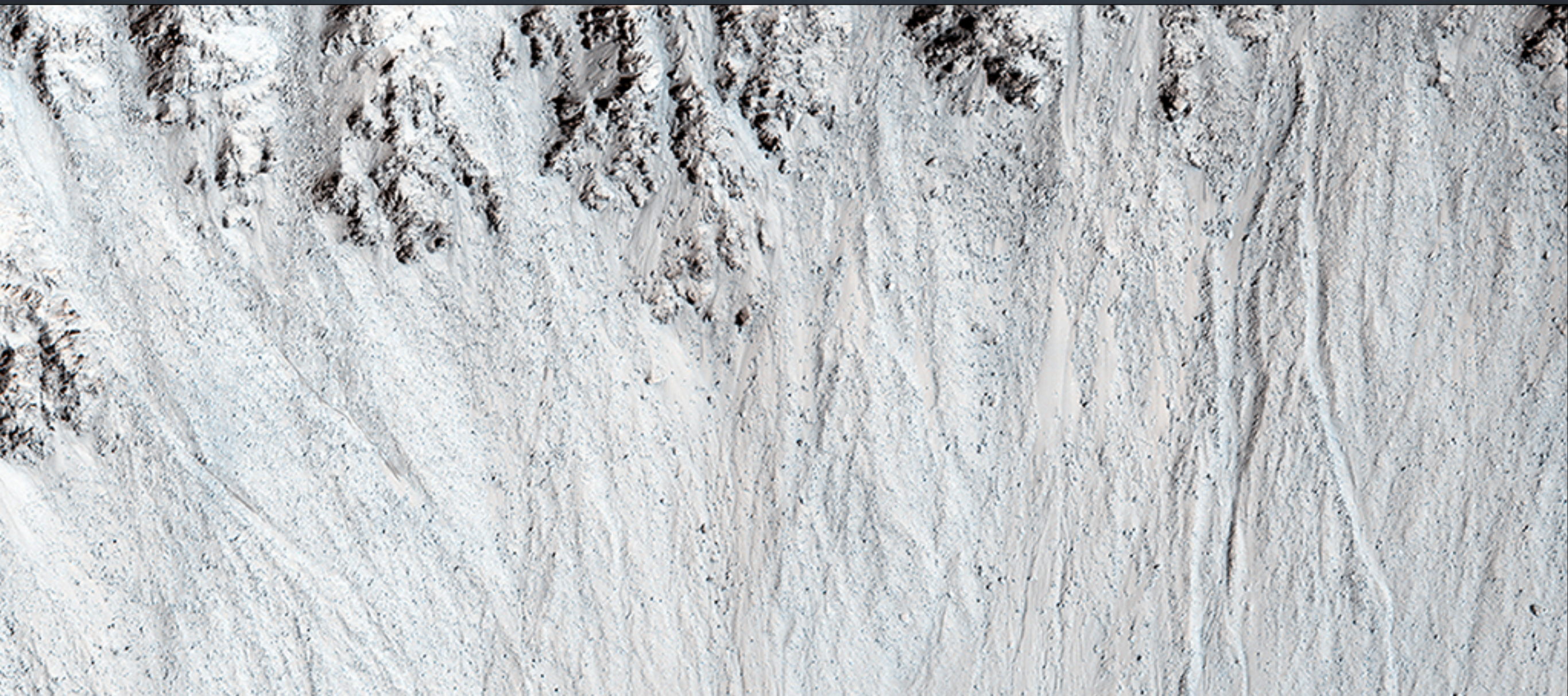
Cracks in a Debris Apron

The apron could be (or could have been) ice-rich, so one possibility is that the fissures are related to ice loss. Based on radar data from MRO combined with studies of the region's geology from other orbiters, scientists think that extensive glaciers covered this region several hundred million years ago.



Gullies and Layers in a Crater Near Mariner Crater

Gullies are commonly found in the southern mid-latitudes of Mars. In this image they start near top of a long ridge, and descend into an impact crater that lies at the bottom of the ridge, moving through a rocky layer along the way. Below the layer, the surface is dark and blue in HiRISE enhanced color, suggesting that it is easily erodible sand coating the crater wall.



Recurring Slope Lineae in Raga Crater

This image covers Raga Crater, the location of well-studied recurring slope lineae (RSL). RSL are dark flows that disappear and re-form every Mars year at certain locations. Comparisons like these will help the HiRISE team learn how much the flows vary from year to year, as well as why they are different.