



Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

Colloquium 16-08

Speaker: Dr. Henry Throop
Senior Scientist, Planetary Science Institute, Arizona, USA

Title: “New Horizons Mission to Pluto and Beyond”

Time: Wednesday, 1 June 2016, 16.00 hrs.

Venue: K. R. Ramanathan Auditorium, PRL

Abstract

After a nine-year journey through space, astronomers visited Pluto for the first time in July 2015, using a robotic NASA spacecraft called New Horizons. Despite being a cold and small icy body, New Horizons found Pluto's surface to be young, dynamic, and varied. Planetary Scientist Dr. Henry Throop will tell the story of this NASA spacecraft mission, from its development and construction, through launch in 2006, to its successful encounter with Pluto, and plans for onward encounters with bodies in the distant Kuiper Belt.

The Speaker

Dr. Throop is a Senior Scientist with the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, Arizona, USA. He received PhD in Planetary Science from the University of Colorado, USA, in 2000. His work focuses on the outer solar system, and he has published over 40 articles in scientific journals, on topics ranging from the rings of Saturn and Jupiter, to planet and star formation, to astrobiology and the origins of life, to searching for (and co-discovering) Pluto's smallest moon, Styx, in 2012. He is a frequent consultant to the US's NASA and the National Science Foundation. While working at NASA, he managed two of NASA's major scientific research programs. Throop is member of the science team for NASA's New Horizons mission, and was involved in its historic flyby of Pluto on July 14, 2015. He has presented more than 100 lectures for scientific festivals, planetarium, school groups, and public events across the USA, Mexico, Africa, and India. Dr. Throop's work has been featured in Science, Nature, Time, The Washington Post, and on the History Channel and National Geographic TV.

Tea at 15:30 hrs.

ALL ARE WELCOME

