



# Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

## Public Lecture

- Speaker:** Dr. Scott E. Parazynski  
*Former NASA Astronaut, Professor of Practice and University Explorer,  
Arizona State University and Founder, Blue Dot Tech, USA*
- Title:** “Human Destiny in Space: Current and Future Prospects”
- Time:** Thursday, 21 April 2016, 18.00 hrs.
- Venue:** K. R. Ramanathan Auditorium, PRL

### Abstract

Humans have always aspired to explore the heavens. It was exactly 55 years ago this month, in April of 1961, that the first human being, Yuri Gagarin, was launched into space. Since then we have come a long ways, and the future of human space exploration is bright! I will discuss the current and future prospects of human space exploration based on my own experiences as a NASA astronaut for 17 years (1992-2009), during which time I flew five missions aboard the Space Shuttle and conducted seven space walks.

### The Speaker

Dr. Scott E. Parazynski received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Stanford University in 1983 and graduated with honors from Stanford Medical School in 1989. He served his medical internship at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital of Harvard Medical School (1990). He had completed 22 months of a residency program in emergency medicine in Denver, Colorado when selected to the Astronaut Corps.

Selected as an astronaut in March 1992, Dr. Parazynski joined the Johnson Space Center in August 1992. He completed one year of training and evaluation, and was qualified as a mission specialist. Dr. Parazynski initially served as one of the crew representatives for extravehicular activity (EVA) in the Astronaut Office Mission Development Branch.

Dr. Scott served as the Astronaut Office Operations Planning Branch crew representative for Space Shuttle, Space Station and *Soyuz* training, and also served as Deputy (Operations and Training) of the Astronaut Office ISS Branch. Most recently, he served as Chief of the Astronaut Office EVA Branch. In the aftermath of the Columbia tragedy, he was the Astronaut Office Lead for Space Shuttle Thermal Protection System Inspection and Repair. Dr. Parazynski has spent over 8 weeks in space with more than 47 hours outside on spacewalks. While he has travelled over 23 million miles in orbit he has yet to earn a single frequent flyer mile! In addition to being a life-long SCUBA diver and accomplished mountaineer, Dr. Scott is also a commercial, instrument, multiengine and seaplane-rated pilot with over 2,500 flight hours. He began climbing in his teens, and has climbed in the Alaska Range, the Cascades, the Rockies, the Alps, the Andes and the Himalayas. On his second attempt to scale Mt. Everest, on May 20, 2009, he became the first (and only) astronaut to stand on top of the world.

In November 2014 Dr. Parazynski was designated University Explorer and Professor of Practice at Arizona State University, where he aims to help build a world-class institute focused on elevating human performance for elite performers as well as those with disabilities. He is a prolific inventor and product developer, and serves on the Boards of several organizations and companies.

He is the recipient of a number of prestigious awards, including: five NASA Spaceflight Medals, two NASA Distinguished Service Medals, two NASA Exceptional Service Medals, two Vladimir Komarov Diplomas from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, two Flight Achievement Awards from the American Astronomical Association, the Aviation Week Laureate Award, the Antarctica Service Medal, the Ellis Island Family Heritage Award, the Gold Medal from the American Institute of Polish Culture, the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Award, the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and the Lowell Thomas Award from the Explorers Club. A Top 10 competitor in the 1988 US Olympic Luge Team trials and coach for the Philippines during the 1988 Calgary Olympic Winter Games, he was selected as a Honorary Captain of the 2010 US Olympic Luge Team for the Vancouver Games. Additionally, he a member of the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame and was awarded the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the Military University of Technology in Warsaw, Poland.

**High Tea at 19:00 hrs.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

