

AsCans

Abstract: New Horizons Mission



NASA's New Horizons spacecraft left Earth in 2006 for a journey to explore the outer solar system. In 2015 it became the first spacecraft ever to visit Pluto, and in 2019 it visited the even more distant and primitive world of Kuiper belt object Arrokoth. New Horizons' discoveries in the solar system are transforming our understanding of the formation and evolution of the planets and are letting astronomers and geologists start to understand the vast number of small, icy bodies which make up the Kuiper belt. New Horizons Science Team member Dr. Henry Throop will tell the story of this NASA spacecraft mission, from its development and construction, through launch, and past Pluto, Arrokoth, and beyond.

Biography: Dr. Henry Throop



Dr. Henry Throop is an astronomer at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, where he manages NASA's research programs in the outer solar system. Throop's has published over 40 articles in scientific journals, on topics ranging from to 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. Throop was a member of the science team for NASA's New Horizons mission and was involved in its historic encounters with Pluto in 2015 and Arrokoth in 2019. He received a PhD in Planetary Science from the University of Colorado in 2000.

Throop has spent much of his career bringing astronomy to the developing world. While living for more than a decade in Africa, India, Sri Lanka, and Mexico, he worked extensively with schools and community groups, helping to develop their science programs and inspire the next generation of leaders. He has presented more than 150 lectures for science festivals, planetariums, school groups, and public events across the world. Throop's work has been featured in *Science*, *Nature*, *Time*, the *New York Times*, and on the History Channel and National Geographic TV, as well as dozens of newspapers from Pakistan to Hungary to Namibia.

Throop's work has won him broad accolades. He has been awarded the American Astronomical Society's Carl Sagan Medal, and the American Foreign Service Association's Avis Bohlen Award, for his work in science communication and outreach to the public. Asteroid 193736 "henrythroop" is named in his honor.