



## Highlight Lecture 2 The Challenge of Exploring Our Sun: the 60-Year Odyssey to Parker Solar Probe

**#IAC2019 Washington, D.C. United States, 21 – 25 October 2019**

The 70th International Astronautical Congress - IAC 2019, to take place from 21 - 25 October in Washington D.C., United States will feature on **Wednesday 23 October 2019**, from **18:00 – 18:45**, a Highlight Lecture by **Nicola J. Fox**, Division Director, Heliophysics Division, Science Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on the topic of '**The Challenge of Exploring Our Sun: the 60-Year Odyssey to Parker Solar Probe**'.

Parker Solar Probe is humankind's first mission to venture to the Sun and unlock the mysteries of the corona. Launched in 2018, and built by JHUAPL for NASA, this mission is the culmination of a 60-year quest to build a spacecraft and instruments capable of exploring the searing temperatures and radiation of the corona, and investigate the processes that drive the solar wind. While a mission to the Sun has been a science priority since 1958, it was not a possibility until recently due to the extreme radiation environment close to the Sun. Parker and its instruments will come within 3.8 million miles (6.16 million kilometers) to the Sun, more than seven times closer than any spacecraft has come before. Initial data from the instruments has revealed previously unobserved processes in the near-solar region; highlights of the first major scientific findings will be presented at IAC.

**For more information**  
[media@iafastro.org](mailto:media@iafastro.org)

