

Dr. Matt Mountain - President, AURA



Dr. Matt Mountain is the current President of The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) - AURA is a not-for-profit consortium of 44 US Universities and 4 International affiliates which builds and operates telescopes and observatories for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA). Facilities under AURA's management include the science operations for the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and the future James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). For the NSF, AURA manages the Gemini Observatory, the National Optical Astronomical Observatory (NOAO), and the National Solar Observatory (NSO). Dr. Mountain and AURA are also responsible for the construction of the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) on Haleakalā, Hawaii and the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) on Cerro Pachon in Chile. AURA mission is to *enable astronomical discovery and promotes broad engagement in exploring the Universe*. AURA has a staff of over 1,500 scientists, engineers and administrators with an annual operating budget of approximately \$350M. Dr. Mountain is the Telescope Scientist for JWST, and a member of the JWST Science Working Group.

Prior to this Dr. Matt Mountain was the Director of the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI). The Institute was established in 1981 as a community-based science center, operated for NASA and is responsible for the science operations and education and public outreach for the HST, the creation and implementation of the JWST science operations center and running NASA's Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST).

Before joining STScI in 2005, Dr. Mountain was the Director of the International Gemini Observatory and led the team that designed, built, and brought into operation the two Gemini telescopes on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, and Cerro Pachón, Chile.

His research interests have included star formation, advanced infrared instrumentation, and the capabilities of advanced telescopes. Dr. Mountain has appeared in several documentaries on Telescope and Astronomy. He received his degree in Physics in 1979, and Ph.D. in Astrophysics in 1983 both from Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London. Dr. Mountain has published over 100 research papers, articles, and reports. Dr. Mountain is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE) and the Royal Astronomical Society and a member of the American Astronomical Society (AAS).

