**Dr. John C. Mather**

Senior Project Scientist, James Webb Space Telescope

Dr. John C. Mather is a Civil Servant and Senior Astrophysicist in the Observational Cosmology Laboratory located at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. He is also the Senior Project Scientist on the James Webb Space Telescope, extending the scientific discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope to look farther out in space and farther back in time. Mather leads the science teams, and represents scientific interests within the project management.

He received a bachelor's degree in physics from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, and his doctorate in physics from the University of California, Berkeley led him into observations of the Big Bang, with an unsuccessful thesis project that nevertheless inspired the COBE satellite and a Nobel Prize.

As a National Research Council postdoctoral fellow at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York City, he led the proposal efforts for the Cosmic Background Explorer mission (1974-76), and moved to Goddard Space Flight Center to be the lead scientist for the mission.

Mather and the COBE team showed that the cosmic microwave background radiation has a blackbody spectrum within 50 parts per million (ppm), confirming the expanding universe concept (Big Bang theory) to extraordinary accuracy. The team also measured hot and cold spots in the heat radiation; Steven Hawking said it was the greatest scientific discovery of the century, if not of all time. Mather and G. Smoot shared the Nobel Prize, physics, 2006.

**Dr. Andrei Kounine**

Senior Research Scientist, MIT

Deputy PI, AMS Experiment

Andrei Kounine received his Ph.D. in Physics from the Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics in Moscow. He is Senior Research Scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research is focused on studies of electroweak interactions and physics of cosmic rays. Dr. Kounine is deputy Principal Investigator of the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) Experiment on the International Space Station. The results from this experiment are changing our understanding of the cosmos.

**Manuel Rodrigues**

Senior Research Fellow, MICROSCOPE Project manager and Co-Investigator

Mr Manuel Rodrigues is born on 02/07/1966 in Paris. He graduated as Physics engineer from the Paris School of Industrial Physics and Chemistry (ESPCI) and worked in his last year under Georges Charpak supervision. In 1990, he joined ONERA, the national French Aerospace Lab, and was in charge of the performance evaluation of space inertial sensors for the missions LISA, GEOSTEP, CHAMP and GRACE. In 2000, he becomes the MICROSCOPE payload manager, and later the science co-investigator of the mission. In 2019, he received the Servant Prize of the French Academy of Science for the first results of MICROSCOPE. He is member of the scientific council of the National Program Gravitation, Reference, Astronomy and Metrology (GRAM) since 2014 and member of the CNES Fundamental Physics working group since 2022.