

# 2022 J. Mark Sowers Distinguished Lecture Series

VIRGINIA TECH COLLEGE OF SCIENCE



## Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell

University of Oxford and University of Dundee

### Discovery of Pulsars: A Graduate Student's Story

February 8, 2022 ■ 12:00 pm ET

#### Webinar

Register at: [aimsbbis.vt.edu/Sowers\\_BellBurnell](https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/Sowers_BellBurnell)



“In this talk I will describe how pulsars were accidentally discovered and relate some instances where they were ‘nearly’ discovered.”

Photo courtesy of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

Jocelyn Bell Burnell inadvertently discovered pulsars as a graduate student in radio astronomy in Cambridge, opening up a new branch of astrophysics - work recognized by the award of a Nobel Prize to her supervisor.

She has subsequently worked in many roles in many branches of astronomy, working part-time while raising a family. She is now a Visiting Academic in Oxford, and the Chancellor of the University of Dundee, Scotland. She has been President of the UK's Royal Astronomical Society, in 2008 became the first female President of the Institute of Physics for the UK and Ireland,

and in 2014 the first female President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. She was one of the small group of women scientists that set up the Athena SWAN charter.

She has received many honours, including a \$3M Breakthrough Prize in 2018.

The public appreciation and understanding of science have always been important to her, and she is much in demand as a speaker and broadcaster. In her spare time, she gardens, listens to choral music and is active in the Quakers. She has co-edited an anthology of poetry with an astronomical theme - ‘Dark Matter; Poems of Space’

#### ALL TALKS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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