

**Abraham (Avi) Loeb** is the *Frank B. Baird, Jr., Professor of Science* at [Harvard University](#) and a [bestselling author](#) (in lists of the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Die Zeit*, *Der Spiegel*, *L'Express* and more). He received a PhD in Physics from the [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#) in Israel at age 24 (1980-1986), led the first international project supported by the [Strategic Defense Initiative](#) (1983-1988), and was subsequently a long-term member of the [Institute for Advanced Study](#) at Princeton (1988-1993). Loeb wrote 8 books and over 800 papers on a wide range of topics, including black holes, the first stars, the search for extraterrestrial life and the future of the Universe. He had been the [longest serving Chair](#) of Harvard's [Department of Astronomy](#) (2011-2020), Founding Director of Harvard's [Black Hole Initiative](#) and is Director of the [Institute for Theory and Computation](#) (2007-present) within the [Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics](#). He is an elected fellow of the [American Academy of Arts & Sciences](#), the [American Physical Society](#), and the [International Academy of Astronautics](#). Loeb is a [former member](#) of the [President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology \(PCAST\)](#) at the White House, a former chair of the [Board on Physics and Astronomy of the National Academies](#) and a current member of the Advisory Board for "[Einstein: Visualize the Impossible](#)" of the Hebrew University. He also chairs the Advisory Committee for the [Breakthrough Starshot Initiative](#) (2016-present) and serves as the Science Theory Director for all [Initiatives](#) of the [Breakthrough Prize Foundation](#). In 2012, [TIME magazine](#) selected Loeb as one of the 25 most influential people in space. Click [here](#) for Loeb's commentaries on innovation and diversity.

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