

Thomas H. PRETTYMAN

*Senior Scientist, Planetary Science Institute
Lead for the NASA Dawn Mission's Gamma Ray and Neutron
Detector*

Dr. Thomas Prettyman is a Senior Scientist at the Planetary Science Institute and an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico's Institute of Meteoritics. His Ph.D. is in Nuclear Engineering, and his area of expertise is nuclear spectroscopy applied to remote sensing of the elemental composition of planetary surfaces and atmospheres. Research interests include planetary geochemistry, cosmic ray physics, sensor technology, and radiation transport methods. He was a member of the Lunar Prospector Gamma Ray and Neutron Spectrometer team and a Participating Scientist on 2001 Mars Odyssey. He is a Co-Investigator of two NASA Discovery missions: the Dawn mission to (1) Ceres and (4) Vesta, where he is the lead for the Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector; and the recently selected Psyche mission to the "metal" asteroid (16) Psyche. As a NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) Fellow, he is investigating the use of muons, highly penetrating subatomic particles, to probe the interior of small solar system bodies. In 2014, the International Astronomical Union designated Minor Planet (24994) Prettyman in recognition of his work on Dawn.