

Maria T. Zuber

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Maria T. Zuber is the E. A. Griswold Professor of Geophysics and Vice President for Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is the first woman to lead a science department at MIT and the first to lead a NASA planetary mission. Professor Zuber oversees MIT Lincoln Laboratory and more than a dozen interdisciplinary research laboratories and centers. She is responsible for research administration, policy, integrity and compliance and plays a central role in research relationships with the federal government.

Professor Zuber's research bridges planetary geophysics and the technology of space-based laser and radio systems. Since 1990, she has held leadership roles associated with scientific experiments or instrumentation on nine NASA missions; at present, she remains involved with six of these missions. Zuber is principal investigator for NASA's Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL) mission, an effort to map the Moon's gravitational field, begun in 2008.

Among numerous awards, Professor Zuber is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and American Philosophical Society, and a fellow for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geological Society and the American Geophysical Union. In 2004, Zuber served on the Presidential Commission on the Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy. Discover magazine named her one of the 50 most important women in science in 2002 and, in 2008, she was named to the USNews/Harvard Kennedy School List of America's Best Leaders. In 2013, President Obama appointed Professor Zuber to the National Science Board.