



**ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
PRESS OFFICE**

ph. (+30)2310 997158 e-mail: press@auth.gr
Administration Building «K. Karatheodori» AUTH, P.C. 541 24, Thessaloniki
[@Aristoteleio](https://www.facebook.com/Aristoteleio) [@authuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/authuniversity) [@Auth_University](https://www.x.com/Auth_University)

ANNOUNCEMENT

“Protecting Earth from Asteroid Impacts”: Lecture at the Aristotle University on the European space missions HERA and RAMSES

Thessaloniki, 4/5/2026

“Protecting Earth from Asteroid Impacts: The European space missions HERA and RAMSES” is the title of the lecture that Dr. Patrick Michel, scientific lead of the Hera space mission of the European Space Agency (ESA), will deliver on Sunday, May 10, 2026, at 19:00, at the Ceremonial Hall of the Aristotle University.

The Laboratory of Theoretical Mechanics and Astrodynamics of the Aristotle University organizes the event under the auspices of the School of Physics and the Department of Science.

Brief biography of the speaker

Dr. Patrick Michel is widely recognized in the scientific community as an expert in asteroid research. He serves as Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) (French National Centre for Scientific Research) and leads the TOP (Theory & Observations in Planetology) group at the Lagrange Laboratory of the Côte d’Azur Observatory (Nice, France). He has published more than 200 papers in international scientific journals and specializes in developing numerical simulations of asteroid impact processes.

He serves as Principal Investigator (PI) of the Hera space mission of the European Space Agency (ESA), which will contribute to understanding the results of the first test of deflecting a potentially hazardous asteroid, carried out by NASA’s DART mission. He also coordinates the collaboration between these two missions. In addition, he participates as a key researcher in two space missions, Hayabusa2 (JAXA) and OSIRIS-REx (NASA), which aim to return asteroid samples to Earth.

In the past, he coordinated related funded research projects of the European Commission and served as lead editor of the book *Asteroids IV* (University of Arizona Press, 2015), which reviews the core knowledge of the international scientific community on asteroids. He is Chair of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects of the International Astronomical Union and a member of the steering committee of the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN).

He has received the NASA Silver Achievement Medal, the Carl Sagan Medal from the Division for Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society, the Paolo Farinella Prize (2013), and the Young Researcher Award of the French Society of Astronomy and Astrophysics (SF2A).

Asteroid (7561) Patrickmichel is named in his honor.

The lecture will be delivered in English and is organized within the framework of the international conference “HERA Community Meeting 2026”.

More information: <https://indico.physics.auth.gr/event/24/>

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.