

**David Reitze**  
**Executive Director**  
**LIGO Laboratory**  
**California Institute of Technology**

**Biography** - David Reitze is the Executive Director of the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory) Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology and a Professor of Physics at the University of Florida. He received a Ph. D. in Physics from the University of Texas at Austin in ultrafast laser spectroscopy in 1990 and has worked extensively in the area of experimental gravitation-wave detection since the mid-1990s. He has authored or co-authored over 250 peer-reviewed publications. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the Optical Society. He has served on numerous scientific advisory and program committees and within the physics and optics communities, including the Science and Engineering Council of the Optical Society of America, the Division of Laser Science of the APS, the Gravitational-wave International Committee, and the National Research Council Committee on Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics. From 2007-2011, he served as the Spokesperson (leader) of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, a group of almost 1000 scientists who conduct the science of LIGO.