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Dr. McNutt is Co-Investigator on NASA's Parker Solar Probe, Europa Clipper, New Horizons, Voyager Interstellar Mission, Member of the Ion Neutral Mass Spectrometer Team on Cassini, and Project Scientist and Co-Investigator on NASA's MESSENGER mission to Mercury.

From 2008 to 2009, he Co-Chaired (with General William Hoover) the Committee on Radioisotope Power Supplies, which produced the National Research Council (NRC) report "Radioisotope Power Systems: An Imperative for Maintaining U.S. Leadership in Space Exploration," and in 2014 to 2015 he chaired a committee consisting of NASA and Department of Energy personnel that wrote the "Nuclear Power Assessment Study."

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He is a Member of International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and elected Trustee Chair of its Basic Sciences Section (2017-2019 term), Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Member of the American Astronomical Society, American Geophysical Union, Sigma Xi, The Planetary Society, and the American Nuclear Society.