

David Spergel is the director of the Center for Computational Astrophysics and the Charles Young Professor of Astronomy at Princeton University. He is the former chair of the Space Studies Board.

Using microwave background observations from the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP) and the Atacama Cosmology Telescope, Spergel has measured the age, shape and composition of the universe. These observations have played a significant role in establishing the standard model of cosmology. He is one of the leaders of the Simons Observatory, which will include a planned millimeter-wave telescope that will allow us to take the next step in studying the microwave sky and probing the history of the universe.

Spergel is currently co-chair of the Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) science team. WFIRST will study the nature of dark energy, complete the demographic survey of extrasolar planets, characterize the atmospheres of nearby planets and survey the universe with more than 100 times the field of view of the Hubble Space Telescope. Spergel has played a significant role in designing the coronagraph and in shaping the overall mission.

Since completing my Ph.D. work, Spergel has been interested in using laboratory experiments and astronomical observations to probe the nature of dark matter and look for new physics. Recently, Spergel has been active in the exploration of data from the Gaia satellite and observations made by Subaru's Hyper Suprime-Cam.

Spergel serves as co-chair of the Global Coordination of Ground and Space Astrophysics working group of the International Astronomical Union.

At Princeton, Spergel was department chair for a decade. During his tenure as chair, the department was consistently ranked No. 1 by both the National Research Council and *U.S. News and World Report*. He is an associate faculty member in both the department of physics and the department of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Princeton. He has been the primary mentor for over 31 graduate students, 35 postdoctoral fellows and 60 undergraduates,