



SYNOPSIS

At the Royal Society in London on July 20, 2015, Yuri Milner, Stephen Hawking and Lord Martin Rees announced a set of initiatives — a scientific programme aimed at finding evidence of technological life beyond Earth entitled 'Breakthrough Listen', and a contest to devise potential messages named 'Breakthrough Message'. In addition, at the One World Trade Center in New York on April 20, 2016, 'Breakthrough Starshot' was announced, an interstellar programme to Alpha Centauri. These are the first of several

privately-funded global initiatives to answer the fundamental science questions surrounding the origin, extent and nature of life in the universe. The Breakthrough Initiatives are managed by the Breakthrough Prize Foundation.



BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE:

Dr Pete Worden

Dr S Pete Worden, Chairman of the Breakthrough Prize Foundation and Executive Director of the foundation's 'Breakthrough Initiatives'.



Prior to joining the Breakthrough Prize Foundation, Dr. Worden was Director of NASA's Ames Research Center. He was research professor of astronomy at the University of Arizona. He is a recognized expert on space and science issues and has been a leader in building partnerships between governments and the private sector internationally. Dr. Worden has authored or co-authored more than 150 scientific papers in astrophysics and space sciences. He served as a scientific co-investigator for three NASA space science missions – most recently the Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph launched in 2013 to study the Sun. He received the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal for the 1994 Clementine Mission to the moon. Dr. Worden was named the 2009 Federal Laboratory Consortium 'Laboratory Director of the Year' and is the recipient of the 2010 Arthur C. Clarke Innovator's Award. On July 20, 2015 at the Royal Society in London, UK, Yuri Milner and Stephen Hawking launched the Breakthrough Initiatives with Dr. Worden as its lead. www.breakthroughinitiatives.org



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**BREAKTHROUGH
INITIATIVES**

THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE
School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science
Astrophysics and Cosmology Research Unit

cordially invites you to attend a

Public Talk

Are we Alone?

The Breakthrough Initiatives

by

Dr S Pete Worden

*Chairman of the Breakthrough Prize Foundation and
Executive Director of the foundation's 'Breakthrough Initiatives'
Former Director of NASA's Ames Research Center*



Date:

Monday 30 May 2016

Venue:

Graduate School of Business Auditorium, UKZN Westville Campus

Time:

6:15 for 6:30 to 7:30 pm

ENQUIRIES: Strini Rajgopaul on 031-260 7138 or e-mail rajgopaul@ukzn.ac.za

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