National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**SCIENCE** | THROUGH THE EYES OF NASA

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Dr. Nicola Fox serves as the associate administrator for the agency's Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Credit: NASA/Aubrey Gemignani

**Science inspires us. Science connects us. Science empowers us.**

NASA's latest marvels and scientific achievements have captured the public's imagination and continue to inspire the next generation of scientists and explorers. Celebrating its first anniversary, the James Webb Space Telescope continues to wow us with its incredible images of the complex cosmos, while the Artemis campaign promises yet another exciting chapter of human exploration of other worlds once again.

In 2024, NASA will embark on an exciting year of scientific exploration and discovery. I invite you to explore with us, as we are all scientists and explorers at heart. You don't have to have a degree to be a scientist; you just have to like asking questions. We ask questions of ourselves and the world around us, and, as we explore our environment, science is the key to satisfying our curiosity. At NASA, we are fortunate that our science and exploration endeavors are inextricably linked and help us discover and innovate for the benefit of humanity. Together, we explore to advance scientific understanding. Ultimately, exploration enables science, and science enables exploration.

On April 8, 2024, millions of people will gather from Texas to Maine to witness one of the most rare and incredible phenomena of our lifetimes: a total solar eclipse. As the Moon passes in front of the Sun, this cosmic alignment will touch humans, animals, and even our atmosphere, and it is sure to be a memory of a lifetime. Our nation's next solar eclipse is more than 20 years away, so I truly hope you get to witness this spectacle in 2024!

This year, we will also explore worlds near and far like never before. Two exciting Earth science missions—the joint NASA–Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) and the Plankton, Aerosols, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE)—will give us insight into different layers of our environment. Later in the year, we will launch the Europa Clipper to help determine whether Jupiter's water- and ice-covered moon has the conditions to support life. Finally, our Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) missions will begin to study the Moon in novel ways, providing scientific opportunities that are complementary to those of Artemis and critical to understanding the origins of our solar system.

From fire to water to ice and beyond, NASA Science is exploring the universe. We are excited to journey with you, sharing the creation of knowledge and the magic of discovery for the benefit of all humanity.

**Nicola Fox**

Associate Administrator
NASA Science Mission Directorate