

## **The Adler Planetarium Welcomes New Vice President of Astronomy & Collections, Dr. Andrew K. Johnston**

CHICAGO – April 11, 2016 – The Adler Planetarium is excited to welcome Dr. Andrew K. Johnston as the museum's Vice President of Astronomy & Collections. Reporting to the Adler's President and CEO, Michelle B. Larson, PhD, Johnston will offer leadership to the museums' efforts in astronomy research and engagement, cutting-edge space visualizations, near-space exploration, history of astronomy research, and conservation of and outreach with the Adler's world-renowned collections.

"I'm honored to be the newest member of the Adler team and I feel grateful for the opportunity to enhance the world-class astronomy research and collections," says Johnston. "There are limitless opportunities to connect people with the excitement of space and astronomy."

Before joining the Adler team, Dr. Johnston has worked in museums for 30 years, conducting science research and developing new museum programs. He previously worked at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum as a geographer, where he researched environmental dynamics and planetary landforms. His research focused on using remote sensing techniques to investigate land cover changes, forest canopy dynamics, patterns of human settlement, and surface processes on Earth and other terrestrial planets. He led the development of museum exhibits, programs, publications on Earth and space science, and planetarium programming. Johnston received his PhD in Geographical Sciences from the University of Maryland, College Park.



"Andrew Johnston is an accomplished scientist, author, museum educator, and collaborative leader," says Larson, "We are excited to bring Andrew's intellectual curiosity and proven leadership ability onto the Adler team as our Vice President of Astronomy & Collections."

### **About the Adler Planetarium:**

The Adler Planetarium—America's First Planetarium—is more than a museum; it is a laboratory, a classroom, and a community exploring the Universe together. Each year, over 550,000 visitors experience the museum's interactive exhibitions, live planetarium shows, hands-on, minds-on STEM education programs, and world-class collections. Founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler, the Adler Planetarium is a recognized leader in public engagement. The museum's scientists, historians, and educators inspire the next generation of explorers and invite you to explore space with us.