

Adler Planetarium's Kavli Lecture Series Gives Viewers Across the Globe Opportunity to Discover, "Are We Alone in the Universe?"

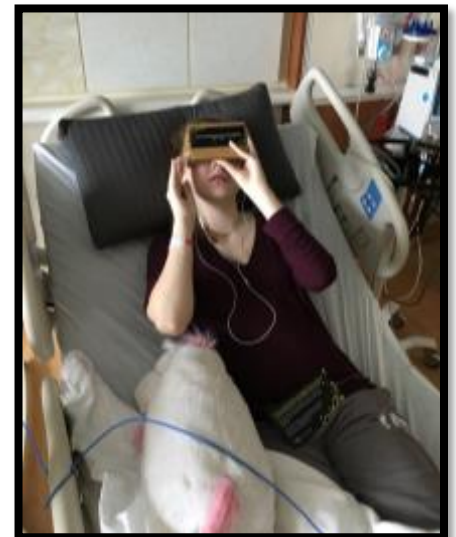
CHICAGO – October 23, 2017 – On November 3 and 4, viewers across the world will be able to experience a virtual presentation on the latest information about the possibility of life on other planets during the *Kavli Fulldome Lecture Series* created and hosted at Chicago's Adler Planetarium. Other planetariums, schools, universities, and museums on four continents will be participating in the lecture via live domeicast, and viewers as far away as a remote village in Kenya, and as close as the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago can watch via YouTube 360 on Google Cardboard devices courtesy of the Adler. *The Kavli Fulldome Lecture Series* is one example of the Adler's ongoing commitment to engage all minds through public outreach regardless of location.

Dr. Lisa Kaltenegger, Director of the Carl Sagan Institute at Cornell University, will discuss techniques to determine which exoplanets discovered over the last two decades might be suitable for life, and also take a look at the missions that could detect life on these worlds. All of this in an effort to finally answer the question, "Are we alone in the Universe?" For lecture times, ticket prices and more information, please visit the Adler website at: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/events/are-we-alone-in-the-universe/>

For the second year in a row, patients at Lurie Children's will be able to participate in the *Kavli* lecture from the comfort of their hospital rooms. In an ongoing partnership with the Adler, kids are able to watch the lecture via donated Google Cardboard headsets.

"Last year, a number of hospitalized students at Lurie Children's participated in the *Kavli Lecture Series* through the Adler Planetarium, and it was a great experience", said Scott Zagalak, School Services Coordinator at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. "Students were able to broaden their horizons and escape the confines of the hospital with the help of Google Cardboard VR devices. The patients were in complete awe and full of excitement, while learning all about the stars and space from an expert in the field. I do not think any of the patients stopped smiling once during the lecture."

In 2016, the Adler Planetarium also donated smart phones and Google Cardboard devices to the Travelling Telescope program which engages the people of Nairobi, Kenya, in exploring the night sky. The organization regularly visits schools, and exposes students to a variety of astronomy tools, resources, and concepts—inspiring them to be the scientists of tomorrow. This year, Travelling Telescope participants will be participating in the *Kavli* lecture.



Additional partners watching via YouTube 360 and Adler-supplied Google Cardboard devices:

- Culture & Heritage Museums' Settlemyre Planetarium, Rock Hill, South Carolina
- Otago Museum, Dunedin, New Zealand

Partners participating in live domecast:

- Pacific Science Center's Willard Smith Planetarium, Seattle, Washington
- University of Alaska's Planetarium and Visualization Theater, Anchorage, Alaska
- Museum of Discovery's OtterBox Digital Dome Theater, Fort Collins, Colorado
- University of Minnesota's Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium, Duluth, Minnesota
- Maloka Science Center, Bogota, Columbia
- Casper Planetarium, Casper, Wyoming
- Peoria Riverfront Museum's Dome Planetarium, Peoria, Illinois
- H. R. MacMillan Space Centre's Planetarium Star Theater, Vancouver, Canada
- Minnesota State University Moorhead's Planetarium, Moorhead, Minnesota
- Mayo High School's Planetarium, Rochester, Minnesota
- Saint Paul Public Schools' Como Planetarium, St Paul, Minnesota
- INSPIRIA Science Center's Planetarium, Grålum, Norway
- Ghana Planetarium Science Center, Accra, Ghana
- University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History + Planetarium, Minneapolis, Minnesota (flat screen viewing)
- University of Wisconsin's Manfred Olson Planetarium, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (flat screen viewing)

About the Kavli Fulldome Lecture Series:

The *Kavli Fulldome Lecture Series*, now in its fourth installment, takes audiences on a journey to the very edges of human knowledge. Adler experts and leading scientists work together to create dazzling, animated images of real data, which are projected onto the planetarium dome creating an immersive experience. It is designed to recognize and showcase groundbreaking discoveries in astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience. In partnership with the Kavli Foundation, the lecture series is a bi-annual event that began in 2015.

Recognition:

The Adler Planetarium gratefully acknowledges The Kavli Foundation for its generous support of the *Kavli Fulldome Lecture Series*. The Kavli Foundation is dedicated to the goals of advancing science for the benefit of humanity and promoting increased public understanding and support for scientists and their work.

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 570,000 visitors experience the museum's interactive exhibitions, live planetarium shows, hands-on, minds-on STEM 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.