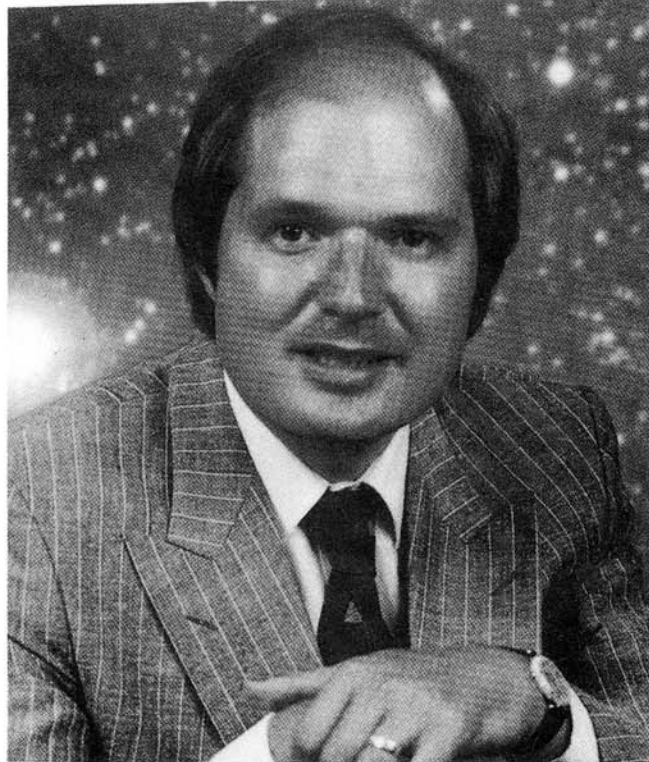


Curriculum Vitae

Prof. David L. Block *PhD, FRAS*



Professor David L. Block, of the Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics at the University of the Witwatersrand, holds a Master of Science degree in relativistic astrophysics and a PhD in astronomy, specializing in the morphology of spiral galaxies. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of London at the age of 19, and his first paper (on general relativity) was published by the Royal Astronomical Society at the age of 20.

Professor Block is the author of *Starwatch* (published in English, German and Swedish) and *Our Universe: Accident or Design?*, and is an invited contributor to the *Astronomy Encyclopaedia*. The preface to his second book was written by two Nobel laureates, Arno Penzias (Physics 1978) and Sir John Eccles (Physiology & Medicine 1963). Professor Block is the only South African whose research work has twice been featured on the cover of *Nature*, the world's most prestigious scientific journal.

A recipient of the University of the Witwatersrand's Convocation Distinguished Teacher's Award given to the most distinguished lecturer in the Faculty of Science, Professor Block has been a Visiting Scientist at the European Southern Observatory (Munich and Chile) and the Institute for Astronomy in Hawaii. He was Chairman of the Scientific Organizing Committee for the International Cold Dust-Morphology Astronomy Conference held at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1996 and attended by over 100 international delegates. Professor Block travels extensively, lecturing to audiences of up to ten thousand people per session. He is married to Elizabeth, a lecturer in geography at the Soweto Campus of Vista University, and they have one son, Aaron, aged five.