

CU Physics Department Colloquium

Monday, March 30, 2009 4:10 PM 428 Pupin Hall



Caleb A. Scharf, Columbia University

"The New Astrobiology"

The search for life beyond the confines of the Earth has had a checkered history and has often been confused and confusing. A number of remarkable discoveries and technical advances across scientific disciplines in the past twenty years have changed all this. I will review some of the key science that motivates this "new" astrobiology; from microbes that rely on natural radioactivity, to methane on Mars, complex molecules in interstellar space, and in particular the study of extrasolar planets. The accelerating pace of discovery on all fronts suggests that we may be getting close to the holy grail of astrobiology - to increase our sample size beyond unity.

Hosted By Malvin Ruderman

Meet the Speaker at 3:30 PM in 705 Pupin

