

RESUME

RITA MARIA SAMBRUNA, Ph.D., OMRI, HonFRAS

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Dr. Sambruna is one of the foremost experts and world leaders in the extragalactic astronomy field of Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN). In particular, she has done seminal work on the formation and radiative properties of extragalactic jets. These subjects are among the most important central questions of modern astrophysics. Her leadership, management, and professional activities have been widely acknowledged and honored.

- Seasoned professional with experience in academia and government.
- Thought leader and expert in astrophysics; research/analytic methodology; program/project management; Executive management.
- Pioneered research in field; achieved institutional change; advanced scientific programs under management.
- *Known for achieving strong science leadership, ground-breaking astrophysical research in an important subfield, advocating for and advancing major programs and missions at NASA, and for mentoring early career scientists.*

EXPERIENCE:

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| Deputy Director , Astrophysics Science Division (Code 660), NASA-GSFC | Jul 2020 – Present |
| Deputy Director (Acting, SES) , Sciences and Exploration Directorate (Code 600) | Sep 2022 – May 2023 |
| Member, NASA Astrophysics Advisory Committee | Jul 2022–Jun 2023 |
| Member, NASA Science Workforce Study Implementation Team | Apr 2021 – 2023 |
| Co-Chair of the NASA Hubble Fellowship Program panel review | Apr 2021 – Sep 2021 |
| Detail , Science Mission Directorate (SMD), NASA HQ | Sep 2019 – Apr 2021 |
| Acting Associate Lab Chief , Code 663, NASA-GSFC | Feb 2020 – Jun 2020 |
| Program Scientist & Manager NASA Astrophysics Decadal Studies , NASA HQ | Sep 2015 – Jun 2020 |
| Chair, Source Evaluation Board (NASA Postdoctoral Program) , NASA HQ | Apr 2014 – Aug 2014 |
| Detail , Offices of Strategy Formulation & of the Chief Technologist, NASA HQ | Sep 2012 – Aug 2013 |
| Program Scientist (GS15) Astrophysics Division, Science Mission Dir., NASA HQ | Sep 2010 – Jun 2020 |
| SPSO Acting Chief Science Proposals Submission Office NASA-GSFC | Feb 2010 – Sep 2010 |
| Senior Astrophysicist (GS15) NASA-GSFC | Jul 2005 – Sep 2010 |
| Clare Boothe Luce Professor of Astrophysics , Dep. Physics, George Mason Univ. | Sep 2000 – Jul 2005 |
| NRC Research Fellow NASA-GSFC | Mar 1995 – Jul 1997 |

EDUCATION:

- Ph.D. [1994] – Astrophysics, International School for Advanced Studies, Trieste, Italy
- M.Phil. [1992] – Astrophysics, International School for Advanced Studies, Trieste, Italy
- *Laurea* [1989] – Physics, University of Milan, Italy

AWARDS & HONORS (most recent):

- Bucy Lectureship, Texas Tech University (2024)
- Elected Chair of Section D, AAAS (2024)
- Keynote speaker at the Italian Association of Physics Students, 03/2024, in Milan, Italy
- Royal Astronomical Society, Honorary Fellow (2023)
- NASA/GSFC Special Act Awards (2022, 2021)
- OMRI (Onore al Merito della Repubblica Italiana), title “Commendatore” (2021) – *equivalent to the Medal of Freedom in the US*
- American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow (2022)
- American Astronomical Society, Fellow (2021)
- American Physical Society, Fellow (2020)
- NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal (2019)
- NASA Group Achievement Award (2019)
- Clare Boothe Luce Professorship, The Henry Luce Foundation (2000 – 2005)
- CAREER award, NSF (2003 – 2005) and LTSA award, NASA (2002 – 2005)
- NRC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (1995 – 1997)

PUBLICATIONS:

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- 387 publications, of which 160 are papers in all major refereed astrophysical journals (including *Nature*), first author on 105. (Full list available upon request.)
- 12,589 citations, h-index of 59 [as of 12 Jan 2025]
- 90 contributions to conferences and meetings
- 60 invited colloquia at national/international conferences and Institutions
- Invited chapter on X-ray jets in AGN in the topical book “Extragalactic Jets” published in 2011 by John Wiley and Sons