

Prof. Itziar Aretxaga

Distinguished Researcher

15th December 2025

Centro de Astrobiología (CAB) CSIC-INTA
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: Spanish/Mexican

Gender: Female

Birthplace: Bilbao, Spain, 20th November, 1965

EDUCATION

PhD	Physics	Univ. Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), Spain	1993
MSc	Physics	Univ. Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), Spain	1990
BSc	Physics	Univ. Complutense de Madrid (UCM), Spain	1988

PROFESIONAL AFFILIATIONS

1993: Spanish Astronomy Society / Sociedad Española de Astronomía (SEA)
European Astronomical Society (EAS)

2000: National Researchers' System / Sistema Nacional de Investigadoras/es, Consejo Nacional de Humanidades, Ciencia y Tecnología (Conahcyt), Mexico: SNII III = Full Prof.

2003: Mexican Academy of Sciences / Academia Mexicana de Ciencias (AMC)

2006: International Astronomical Union (IAU)

2016: Mexican Physics Society / Sociedad Mexicana de Física (SMF)

2023: The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), UNESCO

PRIZES

2023: Puebla St. Science Medal Luis Rivera Terrazas in Basic Sciences and Humanities, Mexico

POSITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

2025-: *Distinguished Researcher*, CAB CSIC-INTA, Spain

2018-: *Director* of the International School for Young Astronomers, IAU.

2016-2018: Deputy Director of the International School for Young Astronomers, IAU.

2015-2018: Treasurer and Member of the *Directing Board*, Southeastern Region AMC.

2011-2016: *Head of the Department* of Astrophysics, INAOE, Mexico.

2006-2013: *Coordinator*, Astronomy Section, AMC, Mexico.

1998-: *Researcher* (current level Full Professor), INAOE, Mexico, tenured since 2004, on leave since Sept. 2025

1996-1998: *Marie Curie Fellow*, Max-Planck Institut für Astrophysik, Germany.

1993-1996: *Marie Curie & Basque Gov. Research Fellow*, Royal Greenwich Obs., UK.

1992-1993: *Teaching Assistant*, Theoretical Physics Dept., UAM, Spain.

SELECTION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- 155 refereed papers in international journals, 16 invited review papers and 58 contributed papers in conference proceedings, 3 chapters of books, 7 books/reports.
- > 9000 citations (NASA's Astrophysics Data System), with a Hirsch index H=57.
- 74 review/invited talks in conferences, 81 colloquia in research centers.
- SOC member of 30+ international conferences (Argentina, China, Colombia, France, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Mexico, Spain, South Africa, S. Korea, USA)
- 11 funded research projects as principal investigator, >20 as co-investigator.
- Project scientist of TolTEC (continuum camera for 50m LMT), co-investigator of the following science teams: AzTEC (1.1mm camera, 50m LMT), CanariCam (IR camera, 10m-GTC), Cosmology Legacy Survey (SCUBA2), H-ATLAS (Herschel).

SELECTION OF TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 26 invited lecture courses in IAU schools or other university PhD programs (Argentina, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Mexico, Spain, USA, South Africa, Taiwan, Venezuela).
- Lecturer of 28 MSc/PhD courses at INAOE (1998-2025) and 5 BSc courses as assisting professor at UAM-Spain (1989-1993), as member of staff.
- (Co-)/supervisor of 8 PhD, 8 MSc, 3 BSc theses and 17 BSc research projects
- Director of 12 IAU International Schools for Young Astronomers.

SELECTION OF OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Co-author (compiler, editor and translator) of the book "The Large Millimeter Telescope: Neighbors Explore the Cosmos" (in English & Spanish)
- 24 science-popularization papers in printed media (in Spanish & Basque).
- 92 science-popularization talks (in Spanish & Basque), + social media outreach posts

SELECTION OF COMMITTEE WORK

- Guest Editor Annual Review of Astronomy and Astrophysics, vol 64 (2026).
- Coordinator/coauthor of Conacyt-PILA plan "Nature of the Universe" (2014-2018).
- (Co-)author of reports on the state of astronomy research in Mexico (Academia Mexicana de Ciencias, Colegio Nacional, Mexico 2008, 2010, 2013), and of research-project evaluation in Mexico (FCCyT 2014).
- Researchers hiring/assessment: SNII (Mexico, 2014, 2018-2021, chair 2020), Hubble Fellows (USA, 2014), NSF Postdocs (USA, 2026), Ramón y Cajal Fellows (Spain, 2013), universities/institutes in Mexico & USA.
- Member, CONACYT committees for funding of basic science (Mexico, 2009, 2010).
- Frequent referee/evaluator of peer-reviewed research journals (MNRAS, ApJ, A&A), MSc/PhD theses (Mexico, USA, Spain), science funding agencies (Argentina, Canada, Europe, The Netherlands, Mexico, Spain), and TACs (Germany, Spain, UK).
- Time Allocation Committees (TACs): JWST (2023/24), ALMA (2019), HST (1999, 2004-2006/11/17/18), Canary Island telescopes (2005), 10-m Gran Telescopio Canarias (cochair 2008-2013), OAGH-INAOE (chair 2005-2006).