

Michel Mayor, born in Switzerland, is a Professor of Astronomy at Geneva University. He is co-discoverer with Didier Queloz, of the first extrasolar planet orbiting a sun-like star, 51 Pegasi, and has discovered more than 100 additional planets and planetary systems. Among his team's recent discoveries is a low mass exoplanet that appears to be located in the so-called "habitable zone". After studying Physics at Lausanne University, Mayor obtained his Phd in Astronomy (1971) at Geneva University. His research interests include galactic structure and evolution, globular cluster dynamics, stellar duplicity, stellar rotation, and extrasolar planets. From 1998 to 2004, he was Director of the Geneva Observatory. M. Mayor is Principal Investigator on the High Accuracy Radial velocity Planetary Search (HARPS) spectrograph project, which, since 2003, has conducted radial velocity searches for extrasolar planets at the European Southern Observatory's 3.60 meter telescope at La Silla, Chile. Among his many awards and recognitions, mention must be made of the Balzan Prize (2000), the Einstein Medal (2004) and the Shaw Prize for Astronomy (2005)