



Jonathan Cirtain

Heliophysics Team Lead

**Heliophysics, Planetary and Space Weather Branch, Space Sciences Office
NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center**

Jonathan Cirtain is the heliophysics team lead in the Heliophysics, Planetary and Space Weather Branch of the Space Sciences Office at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. He is a project scientist for Hinode -- an international mission to study the sun -- and leads the solar instrumentation development programs and technology development effort. He serves on national and international science advisory committees.

Dr. Cirtain also is the institutional principal investigator for the Solar Wind Electrons, Alpha and Protons instrument, or SWEAP, slated to launch no later than 2018 aboard the Solar Probe + mission to explore unprecedented regions in space, transforming our understanding of the sun and its effects on the solar system.

He began his NASA career in 2007 as an astrophysicist.

A native of Memphis, Dr. Cirtain received his doctorate in physics in 2005 from Montana State University in Bozeman. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics and a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 2001 from the University of Memphis.

Among his numerous past achievements and honors, Dr. Cirtain received the 2011 NASA Medal for Exceptional Achievement for his work developing solar physics instrumentation. This medal is awarded to any individual in the federal service for a significant, specific accomplishment or substantial improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science, or technology which contributes to the NASA mission.

He also was among four NASA researchers President Barack Obama named as recipients of the 2010 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, or PECASE. He was recognized for his outstanding research on basic physical processes observed in solar and space plasmas through innovative engineering and instrument designs. He also has contributed to dozens of research publications.

Dr. Cirtain and his wife, the former Melissa Shook of Memphis, have one daughter and live in Madison, Ala.