

## 2020 Jacques Solvay International Chair in Physics



**Professor Roger Blandford**  
*KIPAC, Stanford University, USA*

**CLOSING LECTURE**

**Wednesday 10 November at 4:00 PM**

### *Confirmation, Conviction and Cosmology*

The past sixty years have seen the transformation of cosmology from a weakly constrained metaphysics to a scientific description based on careful observation and accurate measurement. We now know that the universe expanded from a hot beginning to its present state, dominated by an unidentified “dark matter” and an enigmatic “cosmological constant”. In a similar fashion to what has happened with particle physics, this “standard model” provides a basis for relating the narrative history of galaxies, stars and planets. It also establishes a foundation for discussion of more fundamental issues. In this talk, I will discuss how large observational programs as well as some simpler investigations of existing data may affirm or confront our current understanding.

COFFEE AND TEA WILL BE SERVED AT 3:45 P.M. AND DRINKS AT 5:00 P.M IN FRONT OF THE SOLVAY ROOM

SOLVAY ROOM  
UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES  
CAMPUS PLAINE - BOULEVARD DE LA PLAINE  
ACCESS 2 - 1050 BRUSSELS