

# REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER IN PLANETARY SCIENCE

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## ABSTRACT

Successful results in the high-risk endeavor of entry probe missions to the planets require many things from an investigator. High on that list is the selection of an important scientific question that can be investigated with available technology that fits within the constraints of the mission. The importance of adequate margins in the suite of planned measurements is no less important than the margins in the technical parameters of the instrument. A balanced team that is capable and energetic is obviously necessary, but so too is a sense of humor and humility. Management that partitions resources as required to achieve the goals of the program is critical. Faith is required to press hard during inevitable times of difficulty and disappointment. Finally, it must be admitted that luck also plays a role.

Some of these threads will be followed in the Pioneer Venus, Galileo Jupiter, and Huygens Titan probe experiments in which I was fortunate enough to play a role.