

PICADOR

Contact: Declan Taintor
Senior Publicist
declan.taintor@picadorusa.com // (646) 307-5627

**ALAN STERN, NASA'S PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR ON NEW HORIZONS PROBE,
AND AWARD-WINNING SCIENCE WRITER AND PLANETARY SCIENTIST DAVID GRINSPOON**

TO WRITE BOOK ON PLUTO MISSION

Picador to Publish in Spring 2017

NEW YORK, October 1, 2015 – Alan Stern, Principal Investigator for NASA's New Horizons Pluto probe, will write a book with David Grinspoon that goes behind the scenes of the entire mission, it was announced today by Stephen Morrison, publisher of Picador. (Dr. Stern's work on this book is separate from his duties as Principal Investigator on New Horizons.) Worldwide rights to **CHASING NEW HORIZONS: Inside Humankind's First Mission to Pluto** were acquired by James Meader, who will edit the book, from Josh Getzler and Carrie Hannigan of Hannigan Salky Getzler Agency. Publication is planned for Spring 2017.

Nothing quite like this has occurred in decades—a raw exploration of new worlds unparalleled since NASA's storied Voyager missions to Uranus and Neptune in the late 1980s—and nothing like it is being planned to happen ever again. CHASING NEW HORIZONS will follow Alan Stern from his earliest days as a grad student fighting to get the mission approved to the remarkable new insights into our universe that New Horizons is sending back to Earth. The book will stand out not only as one of the most gripping and human exploration stories of the 21st century, but as an innovative and entertaining work of nonfiction storytelling, going behind the scenes for a candid view of the complex interplay of science, politics, egos, competition and public yearnings that fuel such a massive undertaking.

Stern said of the book: "I'm looking forward to telling the story of this epic 21st century exploration and how it came to be." Stern's writing partner, planetary scientist and award-winning science writer David Grinspoon, explained what drew him to the project: "This is a profoundly human story of dogged

determination, risk, sacrifice, perseverance and triumph. Pluto is the Mount Everest of the Solar System—the last, the farthest, the most extreme place to be explored. In CHASING NEW HORIZONS this adventure will be narrated as an epic mission that resonates with the great historical tales of frontier exploration.”

“At times, it’s easy to feel we’ve become an entire society of people looking down,” said Meader. “Down at our phones, down from the gazes of fellow commuters, down at whatever small task we’re engaged in at the moment. But here we have a story of a group of men and women who decided to look up: up to the sky, up to the greater world beyond, to engage with one another on a monumental undertaking. It’s a story that concerns the very limits of what science can achieve in the present, but it’s a story for all time.”

Of the acquisition, Morrison notes the book’s lineage at Picador: “We’re incredibly proud to be home to Tom Wolfe’s book on the earliest days of the space race, *The Right Stuff*, and we feel strongly that CHASING NEW HORIZONS will be very much in keeping with what makes Wolfe’s book a classic: it’s about more than the engineering and the science; it’s really about the human drive to test our boundaries and to push beyond them.”

Intended to be both highly personal and authoritative, CHASING NEW HORIZONS will be THE book on the New Horizons mission to Pluto.

About the Authors

ALAN STERN is the Principal Investigator of the New Horizons mission and the main character—along with the New Horizons probe itself—in this book. For the last 26 years he has been the leading voice and driving architect of an American mission to Pluto. Stern has participated in numerous other planetary missions and has been involved at the highest levels in nearly every aspect of American space exploration. A former Associate Administrator for NASA and an entrepreneur who is involved in many “newspace” startups, he is currently Vice President of SouthWest Research Institute and Chief Scientist at Moon Express. In 2007, *TIME* Magazine, in listing Stern as one of the 100 most influential people in

the world, referred to him as “the conductor of a symphony of current and future space journeys.” Also a gifted communicator, Alan Stern is in demand as a writer and speaker for his ability to convey the excitement of planetary exploration. For ten years, Stern has been documenting his participation in the New Horizons mission for the public in his popular online columns: “The PI’s Perspective”:

<http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/News-Center/PI-Perspectives-Archives.php>

DAVID GRINSPOON is a planetary scientist involved in several interplanetary spacecraft missions, and an award-winning science writer. In 2013 he was appointed as the inaugural Chair of Astrobiology at the Library of Congress. In awarding him the Carl Sagan Medal in 2006, the American Astronomical Association said “He has a special gift in being able to communicate exciting ideas at the leading edge of planetary and astrobiological research to the interested public.” His 2004 book *Lonely Planets* (Harper Collins) was awarded the PEN Center USA Award for Nonfiction. His book *Venus Revealed* (Basic Books) was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. *Dallas Morning News* said he has “a breezy, engaging style unlike anything you’ll find in most popular science books.” *San Jose Mercury News* described him as “a working scientist who, like Sagan, can really write.” *Wired* said he has “a style that will satisfy science nerds and English majors alike.” Grinspoon recently completed *Earth in Human Hands*, to be published in Fall 2016 by Grand Central Publishing (an imprint of Hachette Book Group).

About Picador

Since its launch in 1995, Picador has rapidly established itself as one of the leading trade imprints for fiction and nonfiction in the country. In addition to publishing original titles in hardcover, paperback original, and eBook, Picador is the literary trade paperback imprint for Macmillan, publishing paperbacks from Farrar Straus & Giroux, Henry Holt & Co., and St. Martin’s Press.

About Macmillan

Macmillan Publishers is a global trade book publishing company with prominent imprints around the world. Macmillan publishes a broad range of award-winning books for children and adults in all categories and formats. Macmillan US publishers include Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Flatiron Books, Henry Holt & Company, Macmillan Audio, Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group, Picador, St. Martin’s Press and Tor Books. In the UK, Australia, India and South Africa, Macmillan publishes under the Pan

Macmillan name. The German company, Holtzbrinck Deutsche Buchverlage, includes among its imprints S. Fischer, Kiepenheuer and Witsch, Rowohlt and Droemer Knaur. Macmillan Publishers is a division of the Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, a large family-owned media company headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.

www.macmillan.com