ORTVAY KOLLOKVIUM // Ortvay Seminar Series

2017. március 30. csütörtök 15:00-kor
30th March 2017., Thursday 3pm

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Solar System forensics: the case of the missing planetesimals

Abstract:

Did the Solar System experience an encounter with another star, some 4 billion years ago? Evidence for such an encounter is possibly preserved in the orbits of planetesimals between the Kuiper belt and the Oort cloud. The planetesimal Sedna provides the key evidence for this encounter, and its consequences.

The moment that this star passes the Solar System roughly corresponds to the moment the procaryotes emerged on Earth. The encounter could also have truncated the outer edge of the Solar System, leading to the Kuiper cliff, and which is required to explain the epoch of Late Heavy Bombardment on the Lunar surface.