****

(Photo Credit: Brian Birzer, Birzer Photo Inc.)

**Short Bio for Dr. Shardha Jogee**

Dr. Shardha Jogee is a Professor and current Department Chair in the top-ranked Astronomy Department at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Cambridge in England, and Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Astronomy from Yale University in the USA. Prior to joining the faculty at UT Austin, Dr. Jogee conducted research at Caltech and the Space Telescope Science Institute, which oversees the scientific operations of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and the future James Webb Space Telescope. At UT Austin, Dr. Jogee conducts scientific research to explore how galaxies and their constituent stars, black holes and dark matter halos grow across cosmic time, and mentors undergraduate and PhD students. She uses observations of galaxies conducted with NASA's space telescopes, as well as McDonald Observatory in west Texas for her research. Dr. Jogee is a member of several international science teams, has won over $3.4 millions in grant funding from NASA and the National Science Foundation, and published around 180 papers with over 7,300 citations. Dr. Jogee was born in the remote beautiful island of Mauritius, and credits the power of education for enabling her to pursue her dream of becoming an astrophysicist. She is a proud member of Leadership Texas 2014. She strongly supports a broader participation of women and under-represented groups in STEM and the essential partnership between universities, federal agencies, and philanthropists in advancing society. For more information, please consult her website at <http://www.as.utexas.edu/~sj/> and listen to her interview on voice America at <https://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/93888/exploring-galaxies-in-outer-space-and-academic-leadership-through-the-journey-of-a-leading-female>