Dr. Timothy Swindle is Professor of Cosmochemistry and Head and Director of the Department of Planetary Sciences/Lunar and Planetary Laboratory at the University of Arizona. Dr. Swindle uses measurements of the noble gases in extraterrestrial materials (lunar samples and meteorites) to study the evolution of the solar system. His research projects include using 40Ar-39Ar dating to determine the timing of impact events on the Moon and on asteroids, and studying Martian meteorites to understand the history of the Martian atmosphere and its interaction with surface materials. Past research projects have included using I-129, and its decay product Xe-129, to study the timing of the formation of the earliest solids in the solar nebula, and working on developing techniques to use instruments on spacecraft to measure ages of planetary surfaces in situ.

The Department of Planetary Sciences/Lunar and Planetary Laboratory is an academic institution that pursues scholarly research and education across the broad discipline of planetary and solar systems science through use of theoretical studies and data analysis, laboratory and field investigations, numerical modeling, telescopic observations, remote sensing, spacecraft instrumentation, and space mission development and operations.