Barbara J. Thompson

Dr. Barbara J. Thompson is a research astrophysicist at Beryllium10 Knowledge Technologies, where she applies data science and AI to problems facing the space research workforce. Her scientific research focuses on eruptive phenomena, space weather, and dynamic processes governing the inner heliosphere. She spent 30 years at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, where she led initiatives that established space weather at NASA, shaped Heliophysics into an integrated discipline, and advanced machine learning for scientific discovery. She served on NASA-wide AI advisory committees, was one of Goddard's inaugural AI Champions, and led the Center for HelioAnalytics, which uses machine learning and data analytics to expand discovery in heliophysics. For her pioneering efforts in data science, she was awarded the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal in 2019. She holds a BA in physics and mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD in physics from the University of Minnesota.