The success of the New Horizons spacecraft’s fly-through of the Pluto system in 2015 provided the world with spectacular images of the much loved "dwarf planet". These images and their accompanying data have opened the doors for scientists to study the geology, atmosphere, and history of Pluto and its moons in addition to the surrounding population of objects in the Kuiper belt (KBOs) like never before. In particular, the discoveries we have made at Pluto and Charon are unraveling the mysteries of how planets form and the extent to which objects in the Kuiper belt beyond Neptune are collisionally evolved. I will talk briefly about the discovery and history of our understanding of Pluto, including its demotion to dwarf planet and its place within the Kuiper belt. I will also discuss how the impact craters observed on the surfaces of Pluto and Charon are advancing our knowledge of planet formation. In addition, I will share a number of images taken by New Horizons that provide a unique opportunity to explore the fascinating geology discovered on Pluto and Charon in fantastic detail!

"Constraining Planet Formation Using Craters on Pluto and Charon"

Host: Dr. Guy Worthey

ZOOM Information: Meeting ID: 965 8240 9398 • Passcode: physastro