

NANCY ROMAN

Astronomer Nancy Roman (1925-2018) was one of the first women executives at NASA, and as chief of astronomy, one of the driving forces behind the Hubble Space Telescope.

Fascinated by the stars, Roman began her own astronomy club with a group of neighborhood girls when she was only 11 years old. She received her degree in astronomy from Swarthmore College in 1946 and then her doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1949. Dr. Roman discovered that common stars were not all the same age, and that stars made of hydrogen and helium move faster than stars composed of other heavier elements.

Roman was also key figure in getting other important telescopes into space such as the International Ultraviolet Explorer and the Cosmic Background Explorer.

