

Marianna G. Shepherd (Gerdjikova) was born in Bulgaria. In 1977 she graduated from the State University 'Kliment Ohridsky', in Sofia, Bulgaria in Physics with a major in Geophysics. There she got her M.Sc. in Geophysics before joining the Institute for Space Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as a Scientist-1 and Scientist-2 at the Space Physics and High-energy Astrophysics Divisions, where she worked until 1987. During this period she participated in the Intercosmos programme and had a few long-term working visits at the Institute for Space Research in Moscow, USSR.

In 1988 M. Shepherd was enrolled as a PhD graduate student with the Centre for Research in Earth and Space Science (CRESS) of York University (Toronto, Canada). In 1990 she attended the International Space University summer session. In 1992 she graduated with PhD in Earth and Space Science and joined the Hertzberg Institute for Astrophysics of the National Research Council of Canada, as a Research Associate.

In 1995 she became an Adjunct Faculty Member with CRESS, where she is still working. Dr. Shepherd has been and is a Project Scientist and Principal Investigator on several projects for the Canadian Space Agency and European Union's INTAS programme, the NATO Collaborative Linkage programme, has supervised graduate students and Post Doctoral Fellows and does research in atmospheric science, using ground-based and satellite observations.

Dr. Marianna G. Shepherd is a member of the American Geophysical Union, the American Meteorological Society, the Canadian Association of Physicists, and COSPAR (Committee on Space Research).