

# Scientists round up UFO abductees

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BOSTON — There are hundreds of these people, and the stories they tell are strikingly similar, and similarly incredible: They were abducted by aliens, taken aboard a spaceship, poked, examined, sometimes scarred and eventually returned home.

They usually don't speak publicly about these memories because of widespread disbelief. But this weekend, in what may be the largest gathering of UFO abductees and the scientists and authors who study them, they will meet at the Massachusetts In-

stitute of Technology to discuss this phenomenon.

Sponsored by an MIT physicist and a Harvard psychiatrist, the closed, invitation-only conference is neither sanctioned nor endorsed by MIT.

Until 2½ years ago, Harvard psychiatrist John Mack, cochairman of the closed meeting, said he was skeptical of the whole idea of UFO abductions. "I gave it no credence at all," he said.

But after interviewing more than 60 people who say they have been kidnapped and experimented upon by aliens, he said "the information I've gotten from them

is just staggering." They tell "very consistent and powerful stories," he said.

Most abduction stories are similar to the one told by Pat, a pseudonym. Pat said she was lying on her bed several years ago when she became aware of a blue beam of light in her room. She went outside and saw police cruisers at a nearby lot. That's when she found herself transported upward into a UFO, where she was examined on a table, her eye was cut with a knife, and she observed alien beings and children who appeared to be half-alien, half-human.

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