

*There's only one*  
GALILEO GALILEI

Born in 1564, Galileo Galilei once contemplated a career in the priesthood. It's perhaps fortunate for science that upon the urging of his father, he instead decided to enroll at the University of Pisa. His career in science began with medicine and from there he subsequently went on to become a philosopher, physicist, mathematician, and astronomer, for which he is perhaps best known. His astronomical observations and subsequent improvements to telescopes built his reputation as a leading scientist of his time, but also led him to probe subject matter counter to prevailing dogma. His expressed views on the Earth's movement around the sun caused him to be declared suspect of heresy, which for some time led to a ban on the reprinting of his works.

Galileo's career changed science for all of us and he was without doubt a leading light in the scientific revolution, which is perhaps why Albert Einstein called him the father of modern science.

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