

Medal of Science goes to three physicists



SEITZ



WILSON



EWING

Three physicists are among the eleven recipients of the National Medal of Science for 1973. They are Frederick Seitz, president of the Rockefeller University, Robert Rathbun Wilson, director of the National Accelerator Laboratory and William Maurice Ewing, chief of earth and planetary sciences, Marine Biomedical Institute, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston.

Seitz was recognized for his contributions to the quantum theory of the solid state. His theoretical work in solid-state physics has helped to explain, among other phenomena, the

properties of metallic sodium, luminescence, optically induced darkening in alkali-halide crystals, and crystal defect interactions. Prior to accepting his present position at Rockefeller University in 1968, Seitz held posts at the University of Illinois, Carnegie Institute of Technology, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Rochester. He became the first full-time head of the National Academy of Sciences in 1965.

Wilson was given the Medal for his work in particle physics, including the design and work with a number of par-

ticle accelerators. Since receiving his PhD from the University of California in 1940, he has been associated with Princeton, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Harvard, and Cornell, where he was director of the laboratory for nuclear studies. In 1967 he was appointed professor of physics at the Enrico Fermi Institute and director of the National Accelerator Laboratory.

As the first director of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, a position he held from 1949 until his retirement last year, Ewing made significant contributions to the knowledge of the geology and geophysics of the ocean floor. He was given the Medal for his work in this area. Several breakthroughs in oceanographic research for which Ewing has been responsible include the first recorded seismic measurements in the open ocean (1935), the first photographs of the deep ocean floor (1939) and the first determination of the crustal thickness of the ocean floor (1949). Ewing held positions at the University of Pittsburgh and Lehigh University before joining the staff of Columbia in 1944. He holds a PhD from Rice Institute (1931).

Robert Simha named 1973 Bingham Medalist

Robert Simha, professor of macromolecular science at Case Western Reserve University, is the winner of the Society of Rheology's Bingham Medal for 1973.

Simha's research has resulted in contributions to the hydrodynamics of colloidal solutions, the physical and thermodynamic properties of macromolecular systems, and the kinetics and statistics of polymerization and depolymerization processes in polymers and biological macromolecules.

After completing his PhD at the University of Vienna (1935), Simha held posts at Brooklyn College, the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, Howard University, the National Bureau of Standards, New York University and the University of Southern California. He assumed his present position in 1968.

Richard S. Stein, Commonwealth Professor and director of the Polymer Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, was the recipient of the Medal for 1972.

Richard Feynman awarded Niels Bohr Gold Medal

Richard P. Feynman, the Richard Chase Tolman Professor of Theoretical Physics at the California Institute of Technology, was recently presented the Niels Bohr International Gold Medal by the Danish Engineering Society. The medal is given every three years in recognition of an engineer or scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Feynman's most important work, for which he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1965, has been in the field of quantum electrodynamics. After com-

pleting his PhD at Princeton University in 1942, Feynman worked on an atomic-energy project at Princeton (1941-42), at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory (1942-45) and at Cornell University (1945-51), before going to Cal Tech.

Nikola Tesla has been named to the Electronics Hall of Fame of the National Electronics Associations, Inc.

V. Hugo Schmidt has been promoted to professor and John C. Hermanson to associate professor in the physics department at Montana State University. New appointments in the department include Wendland Beezhold of Sandia Laboratories, to associate professor, Richard Lear of North Texas State University and Mark Peterson of Stanford University, to assistant professor; James Anderson of Brown University