

Pekeris receives Vetlesen Prize in the earth sciences

Chaim Leib Pekeris, mathematician and educator, has won Columbia University's 1974 Vetlesen Prize in the earth sciences.

The Vetlesen Prize—a gold medal and \$25 000—recognizes “achievement in the sciences resulting in a clearer understanding of the earth, its history, or its relation to the universe.” It has been called the Nobel Prize of the earth sciences.

Pekeris was cited as “an outstanding pioneer in the application of advanced methods of applied mathematics to the solution of a wide range of fundamental geological and geophysical problems.” Since 1973 he has been Distinguished Institute Professor at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth, Israel.

Pekeris has studied the modes of free oscillation of the Earth, convection within the Earth, propagation of sound in layered media, and the theory of the Earth's magnetic field. To facilitate geophysical studies, he and his colleagues at the Weizmann Institute designed and constructed three comput-

ers, later used by Pekeris and M. Dishon to compute tides on a global scale. Other targets of inquiry have been properties of the helium atom and the quantum theory of diatomic molecules.

With Alterman and Jarosch, Pekeris made detailed calculations of the vibrational frequencies resulting from earthquakes. In addition to providing a foundation for rapid advances in seismological science, these studies have helped to determine the structure of the Earth's crust and mantle and to distinguish between nuclear explosions and earthquakes.

Pekeris is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a foreign associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, and a foreign and honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Born in Lithuania in 1908, Pekeris earned his BS in 1929 and ScD in 1933 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A US citizen, he moved to Israel in 1948 and joined the Weizmann Institute in 1949.



PEKERIS

Health Physics Society honors McClellan, Taylor and Warren

At its annual scientific meeting, the Health Physics Society presented its Elda E. Anderson Award to Roger O. McClellan and Distinguished Achievement Awards to Lauriston S. Taylor and Shields Warren.

The Anderson Award is presented to persons under 40 years of age who have shown great accomplishment and promise. McClellan was cited for his exceptional accomplishments in veterinary toxicology and radiobiology, research administration, teaching, public service and health physics. He received his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1960.

The Distinguished Achievement Award is given “to recognize accomplishments of fundamental importance to the practice, acceptance, and advancement of the profession of health physics.” Taylor, who received his AB in physics from Cornell University in 1926, has devoted his career to radiation protection and measurement. Warren is a radiation pathologist and

professor emeritus at the Harvard Medical School, where he earned his MD.

David Schramm wins 1974 Trumpler Award

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific presented its 1974 Trumpler Award to David N. Schramm (University of Chicago). The award is given to a recent PhD recipient whose research is considered unusually important to astronomy.

Schramm's major contribution has been in the area of nuclear chronology of the elements. He has established for the first time that the chronology equations of nucleosynthesis are separable. His work has shown how far it will be possible to push the methods of nuclear cosmochronology in order to understand the time scales associated with the Solar System, the evolution of the Galaxy and the Universe.

Schramm did his undergraduate work in physics at MIT and received his PhD from Caltech in 1971. He was on the faculty of the University of Texas, Austin until August.



SCHRAMM