

ed to our understanding of these processes through his studies of such topics as visual pattern recognition, binocular depth perception, texture discrimination, and other topics. Using random-dot stereograms in visual depth-perception experiments, for example, Julesz was able to show that the brain retained images of random patterns that the viewer had previously seen. These and similar experiments, which analyze specific perceptual mechanisms in isolation from others, has led to an

increased understanding of the workings of the human brain. Recently Julesz has been working on new algorithms to model those used by the brain to decode visual scenes.

Julesz obtained his PhD from the Hungarian Academy of Science in 1956. He taught at the Telecommunications Research Institute in Budapest from 1951 until he came to the US in 1956 as the head of the Department of Sensory and Perceptual Processes at Bell Labs, a position he still holds.

obituaries

Elmer Hutchisson

Elmer Hutchisson, who served as the second director of the American Institute of Physics between 1957 and 1964, died on 10 April 1983. He was born in Cleveland in 1902, obtained a bachelor's degree at what was then the Case Institute of Technology, a master's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a PhD in theoretical physics at the University of Minnesota.

Although Hutchisson accepted a junior faculty position at the University of Pittsburgh immediately after obtaining his PhD in 1926, he took a one-year leave of absence in 1929 to work with Erwin Schrödinger in Berlin. In the mid-1930s, recognizing that physics was becoming a principal source of technological advance in the US, he took another year of leave from Pittsburgh to help develop the *Journal of Applied Physics*, which he edited until 1954. During his association with it, it became one of the principal international journals in applied physics. On returning to the University of Pittsburgh in 1937, he became the head of the physics department. Among his innovations was a notable sequence of summer conferences that brought together academic and industrial physicists.

During World War II he took leave to serve in the National Defense Research Committee, devoted to undersea warfare. As the War was ending, he moved to Case, where he held a succession of administrative posts, as dean of the faculty, as dean of the graduate school and director of the research division, and as acting president. He did much to strengthen the scientific base of technical education at Case.

When Harry Barton decided to retire as Director of the American Institute of Physics in 1957, the Governing Board of the Institute turned to Hutchisson as its unanimous first choice for Director: his association with the Institute had been both deep and long. As his term



HUTCHISSON

as Director began, the Institute was just shifting to its present headquarters on 45th Street, and he took the opportunities offered by the new quarters to enhance the development of its programs with vigor. He was the moving force to establish the Institute's Education Division, the Center for History of Physics, and the Niels Bohr Library. He retired in 1964, but continued his work for the Institute as a consultant.

Hutchisson was also deeply interested in international scientific activities, serving, for example, with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and with the International Abstracting Board.

FREDERICK SEITZ
Rockefeller University

Horace Dwight Taft

Horace Taft died 12 February 1983, at the age of 57, while working on the analysis of data from the results of the CRIS particle identifier at Fermilab.

After three years in the field artillery in World War II, Taft enrolled at Yale and studied physics. Following

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