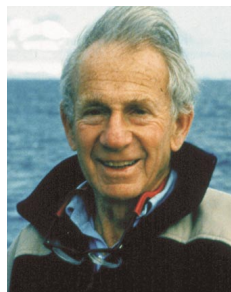


WE HEAR THAT

New International Medal Honors Munk

Oceanographer **Walter Munk** became the first-ever recipient of the Prince Albert I Medal from the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO). The IAPSO presented the award at its joint assembly with the International Association for Biological Oceanography, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in October.



MUNK

Prince Rainier III of Monaco created the award, which will be presented biannually, to acknowledge particularly distinguished scientists in the physical sciences of the oceans. The IAPSO recog-

nized Munk for "a half century of superb science and discoveries in physical oceanography." He is a professor of geophysics and holds the Secretary of the Navy/Chief of Naval Operations Oceanography Chair at the Scripps Institution's Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics in La Jolla, California. He is also a member of JASON.

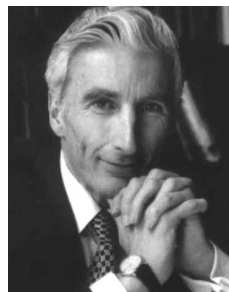
During World War II, Munk and Harald Sverdrup, then the director of Scripps, developed a system for predicting breakers and surf on beaches, information that was essential to the military for making amphibious landings. In the 1960s, Munk studied the attenuation of ocean swells generated in Antarctica. He also used sophisticated pressure-sensing instruments to measure tides in the deep sea. In the 1990s, he helped develop a method for tracking long-term changes in climate associated with global warming.

The medal is named for the late Prince Albert I of Monaco, who, in 1919, organized the oceanography section of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. The IAPSO is one of seven associations of the IUGG.

Cosmology Prize Goes to Rees

Martin Rees was awarded the 2001 Cosmology Prize of the Peter Gruber Foundation this month

at a ceremony in Bern, Switzerland. The prize, established in 2000, is presented to a leading cosmologist, astronomer, astrophysicist, or scientific philosopher in recognition of groundbreaking theoretical, analytical, or conceptual discoveries. Beginning this year, the prize is sponsored jointly by the foundation, which is based in St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands, and the International Astronomical Union in Paris.



REES

Astronomer Royal and a Royal Society Research Professor at the University of Cambridge in the UK, Rees is "renowned for his extraordinary intuition in unraveling the complexities of the universe," reports the foundation. "He has been a leader in the quest to understand the physical processes near black holes and is responsible for major advances in our understanding of the cosmic background radiation, quasars, gamma-ray bursts, and galaxy formation."

Rees was cited for his contributions to "almost every area of cosmology and astrophysics." He has been "an aspiring leader, eloquent spokesperson, and patient guide for astronomers all over the world. Through his public speaking and writing, he has made the universe a more familiar place for everyone." Rees recently wrote the book *Our Cosmic Habitat* (Princeton U. Press, 2001).

Bern was selected as the site for the award presentation to recognize Albert Einstein's contributions to cosmology. Einstein worked in Bern from 1902 to 1909 and wrote his theory of relativity there.

Lorius Wins Balzan Prize

At another ceremony in Bern, Switzerland, this month, the International Balzan Foundation will be presenting four Balzan Prizes, including one for physics-related work.

Claude Lorus, emeritus director of research at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Grenoble, will receive the Balzan

Prize 2001 for Climatology for his research on ice. For example, he discovered that the isotopic composition of ice may indicate the temperature at the time of precipitation. He also has demonstrated that it is possible to determine atmospheric pressure at the time of ice formation.

His data, according to the foundation, have "not only played a crucial role in the reconstruction of climate changes over the past millennia, but also helped us understand how close the relation is between climate and the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and how dependent it is on human activities."

The foundation, which has offices in Zurich, Switzerland, and Milan, Italy, annually awards the prizes in different categories to acknowledge outstanding international achievements in science and the humanities. Beginning this year, prizewinners will be requested to designate half of their prize money for research work to be carried out by, preferably, young researchers.

Weinhaus Is AAPM's President-Elect

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine has a new president-elect: **Martin S. Weinhaus**, chief of the medical physics section in the department of radiation oncology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio. Weinhaus will begin his term as president-elect on 1 January 2002, succeeding Robert G. Gould. He will become president in 2003 and chairman of the board in 2004.

A goal for AAPM, says Weinhaus, is "to work toward assuring that the AAPM remains one of the world's premier scientific associations for medical physicists while working in partnership with related societies to further the interests of all."

Weinhaus also plans "to increase efforts to educate the lay community regarding physicist participation in their health care and to continue efforts to make our association and profession known to our national



WEINHAUS