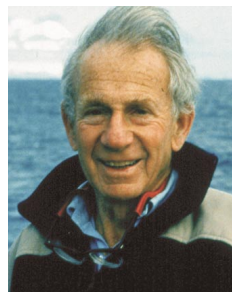


WE HEAR THAT

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.

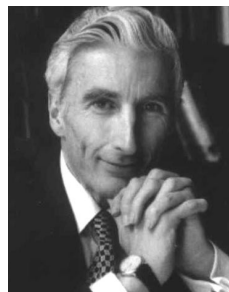
During World War II, Munk and Harald Sverdrup, then the director of Scripps, developed a system for predicting breakers and surf on beaches, information that was essential to the military for making amphibious landings. In the 1960s, Munk studied the attenuation of ocean swells generated in Antarctica. 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 Lorius, 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

political leaders.”

Weinhaus received a BS in physics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1966, then earned MS and PhD degrees in physics from the University of New Hampshire in 1970 and 1974. After postdoctoral training in radiation oncology physics at Yale University, he worked at several institutions before joining the Cleveland Clinic in 1994. His research interests include radiation therapy physics.

Four new at-large members of AAPM's board of directors will also take office on 1 January 2002 for three-year terms. They are **J. Daniel Bourland**, an associate professor and head of the physics section in the department of radiation oncology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; **Sherry Connors**, a senior medical physicist at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; **Douglas J. Simpkin**, senior medical physicist at St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and **Andrew Wu**, director of the medical physics division at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Center in Pennsylvania.

IN BRIEF

In a September ceremony in Kyoto, Japan, the American Nuclear Society presented the Edward Teller Medal for 2001 to **Stefano Atzeni** and **Mordecai D. Rosen**. Atzeni was acknowledged for his “leading contributions to understanding and teaching the high-energy-density physics related to inertial confinement fusion.” He is an associate professor of general physics at the University of Rome I (“La Sapienza”) and the National Institute for the Physics of Matter (INFN) in Italy. Rosen was recognized for his “major contributions to the development of laboratory soft x-ray lasers and to the design and analysis of complex experiments carried out on the Nova laser at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.” He is a laser and plasma physicist with LLNL.

Susan Coppersmith joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin–Madison in August as a professor of physics. She previously was a professor of physics at the University of Chicago.

The Honda Foundation of Japan announced that **Donald Mackay** will receive the 2001 Honda Prize during a ceremony planned for this month. Mackay, director of the Canadian Environmental Modelling Cen-

tre at Trent University, was recognized for his “contribution to environmental chemistry by developing techniques to apply the theoretical concept of fugacity by means of comprehensive systematic techniques of modeling to predict the fate of chemicals in environmental media such as air, water, soils, sediments, and biota.” He also was acknowledged for his “work on elucidating the behavior of oil spills on land, in oceans, and especially in cold Arctic waters.”

Ralph B. James joined Brookhaven National Laboratory last June as the new associate laboratory director for energy, environment, and national security. He previously was a distinguished member of the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California.

The South African Institute of Physics in Faure awarded its Silver Jubilee Medal this past July to **Robert de Mello Koch**, a senior lecturer in the department of physics and Center for Theoretical Physics at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. At the ceremony held during the institute's annual conference in Durban, de Mello Koch was honored for his work in superstring theory. According to the citation, he “has produced significant work explaining how to obtain lump solutions in open string field theory in the context of tachyon condensation. . . .” The medal is awarded biannually for outstanding achievement to a physicist younger than age 35.

This past May, **Jonathan F. Ormes** became the director of space sciences at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. He previously served for 10 years as the chief of Goddard's Laboratory for High Energy Astrophysics. **Nicholas White** now heads that lab. Ormes replaced **Steve Holt** as director. Holt is now a professor of physics at Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering in Needham, Massachusetts, and director of science at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Da Hsuan Feng, vice president for research and graduate education and a professor of physics at the University of Texas at Dallas, was awarded the Distinguished Award for Science and Technology by the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce this past August. He was acknowledged as “an expert in mathematical physics, nuclear physics, and nuclear astrophysics.”

Acta Materialia Inc in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has announced that **Craig R. Barrett**, president and CEO of Intel Corp, has won its 2002 J. Herbert Hollomon Award. Barrett was acknowledged for his “outstanding contributions concerning the interactions between materials and society.” **Robert W. Cahn** has received the 2002 Acta Materialia Inc Gold Medal, which recognizes “demonstrated ability and leadership in materials research.” Cahn is a distinguished research fellow in the materials science and metallurgy department of the University of Cambridge in the UK.

OBITUARIES

Fred Hoyle

Fred Hoyle's varied and prolific output spanned more than 60 years. Indeed, throughout the entire period 1945–70, he was preeminent among astrophysicists in the range and influence of his contributions. His engaging wit and relish for controversy—which he retained throughout his long life—gained him a high public profile. He had a wide following as a popularizer of science and as a successful writer of science fiction. He also played an active organizational role in UK science. Hoyle died on 20 August 2001 in Bournemouth, England. He was physically and mentally robust until the year before his death, during which he suffered a series of strokes.

Born on 24 June 1915 in Bingley,



FRED HOYLE

RAMSEY & MUSPRATT, COURTESY AIP/ESVA