



PEOPLE, PLACES, EVENTS

HONORARY DOCTORATE

• **Calyampudi R. Rao**, a pioneering scholar in statistics and the former director of the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, received an honorary doctorate degree from the State University of New York. It was the latest in a series of almost 40 honours awarded from universities in 19 countries for his work during more than 70 years in the field.

Rao was one of the first people in the world to hold a master's degree in statistics, earning the degree from Calcutta University in 1943. Today, he is professor emeritus of statistics at Pennsylvania State University and serves as a volunteer at the University of Buffalo.



Rao has provided invaluable contributions to many fields. The American Statistical Association has called him “a living legend whose work has influenced not just statistics, but has had far-reaching implications for such fields as economics, genetics, anthropology, geology, national planning, demography, biometry and medicine”. A member of the US National Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy and the Royal Society (UK), Rao has authored 14 books, 475 research papers and served as adviser to 50 PhD students.

2012 AAAS MENTOR AWARD

• **Cato T. Laurencin**, professor of chemical, materials and biomolecular engineering at the University of Connecticut, received the 2012 AAAS Mentor Award for his scientific contributions and passionate mentoring activity to underrepresented minority students, many of whom now hold tenured faculty positions in biomedical engineering.

Laurencin, elected a TWAS Fellow in 2006 for his accomplishments in biomaterials and tissue engineering, is a renowned expert in the field of biomedical engineering and a leader in the field of musculoskeletal tissue regeneration. At the University of Connecticut, Laurencin is the Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Distinguished Chair Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery; professor of chemical, materials, and biomolecular engineering; and director of both the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Center and the Institute for Regenerative Engineering.

During the last 22 years, Laurencin has mentored more than 90 minority students, promoting their most

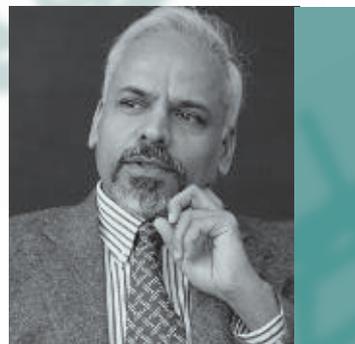


original ideas and advancing their projects in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The AAAS Mentor Award – established by the AAAS Board of Directors in 1996 – was presented to Laurencin

on 15 February at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

PRESIDENT OF NYU-POLY

• **Katepalli R. Sreenivasan**, former director of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy, has



been appointed president of one of the oldest engineering schools in the United States, the Polytechnic Institute of New York University (NYU). The Institute has been affiliated with New York University since 2008. In his new post, Sreenivasan is expected to guide its transition into NYU's School of Engineering and to propel it to new achievements in research, innovation, education and entrepreneurship.

Sreenivasan, an esteemed physicist in the field of fluid dynamics, was elected a TWAS Associate Fellow in 1998. He was educated in India, Australia and at Johns Hopkins University in the United States. He taught at Yale University for 22 years, beginning in 1979, and served as director of ICTP from 2003 to 2009. He has published some 240 papers and supervised more than 30 PhD students.

ABDURAKHMONOV HONOURED

• Remarkable work in cotton genomics, aimed at the genetic en-



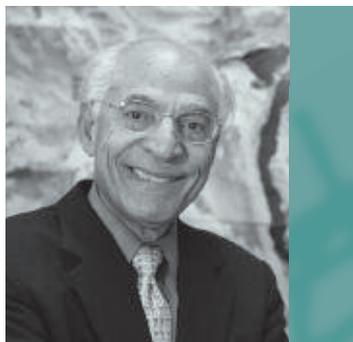
hancement of the different cotton varieties grown in Uzbekistan, has earned Uzbek biotechnologist **Ibrokhim Y. Abdurakhmonov** the ‘Researcher of the Year’ award. This recognition is set up by the International Cotton Advisory Committee, which launched the initiative in 2009.

Abdurakhmonov, winner of the 2010 TWAS prize in agriculture, is the director of the Centre of Genomics and Bioinformatics at the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in Tashkent. He graduated from the National University of Uzbekistan and was then selected to study at Texas A&M University in the United



States, where he completed his MSc degree in plant breeding. His scientific interests focused on improving the quality of Uzbekistan’s cotton that was impoverished by inbreeding procedures (the continuous breeding of a plant variety with individuals having the same genetic features).

In Uzbekistan, Abdurakhmonov established one of the most advanced molecular biology and genomics laboratories of Central Asia, and set up an efficient system for high throughput cotton transformation and identification of genes underlying economically important cotton traits.



VISITING SCHOLAR AWARD

- **Farouk El-Baz**, director of the Center for Remote Sensing and research professor of archaeology, earth sciences and electrical and computer engineering at Boston University, was recently honoured with the 2013 Ireland Visiting Scholar Award.

El-Baz earned his PhD in geology at Missouri University (1964), received an honorary PhD from Mansoura University (Egypt) and an honorary DEng from Missouri University of Science and Technology. He is a 1985 TWAS Fellow and a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

El-Baz participated in the Apollo programme of lunar exploration, launched by NASA in the 1960s, working as secretary of lunar landing site selection, and chair of astronaut-training in visual observations and photography (1967-72).

His research in geomorphology of deserts, archaeology and geography, where he applied for the first time some advanced space imaging techniques, remains of pivotal importance.

Following the Arab Spring, El-Baz has been a prominent and respected advocate for science and technology as an important field of opportunity for young people in the Middle East.

IN MEMORIAM

- **Padma Kant Shukla**, distinguished professor of physics at Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, and TWAS 2007 Associate Fellow, passed away on 26 January 2013 in New Delhi. The day before he had been honoured with the prestigious Hind Rattan (Jewel of India) Award, a recognition bestowed on illustrious non-resident persons of Indian origin for their outstanding services, achievements and contributions.

A native of Uttar Pradesh, Shukla earned his PhD in physics from Banas Hindu University, Varanasi, India. His second doctorate degree in theoretical plasma physics was from Umea University in Sweden. In January 1973, he moved to Ruhr University Bochum as a permanent faculty member in the physics and astronomy department and became professor of international affairs (an *ad hoc* position created to honour his international accomplishments).

His copious scientific production – 70 review papers and 1,500 papers in more than 60 journals, with more than 21,200 citations and an *h*-index



of 62, plus more than 30 years of experience in committee work both at national and international levels – reflects Shukla’s profound commitment to science and society.