

PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS

IN MEMORIAM

Riazuddin, a Pakistani particle physicist with a worldwide reputation and a TWAS Fellow since 1993, passed away on 9 September 2013, in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Riazuddin was a prolific scientist with a deep interest in several topics such as strong and weak interactions, neutrino oscillations and graphene physics. He earned his PhD from Cambridge University, in 1958. Under the supervision of Nobel laureate Abdus Salam [the founder of TWAS], he did his postdoctoral work at the University of Rochester and the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1966, he founded the Physics Institute at Islamabad [now Quaid-e-Azam] University where he established a strong, dynamic group that gained international acclaim.

From 1973 to 1975, working largely alone and with access to limited amounts of publicly available literature, Riazuddin designed Pakistan's first nuclear device. After the bomb was tested in 1998, he urged that Pakistan should sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

In 1976, he instituted the Nathiagali Summer College, an annual conference that attracted some of the greatest physicists of the time.

He authored over a dozen textbooks, including *Theory of Weak Interactions in Particle Physics* [coauthored with Marshak and Ryan], which has become the textbook for an entire generation.

GADAGKAR NAMED INSA PRESIDENT

Raghavendra Gadagkar, a TWAS Fellow [2000] and a Professor at the Centre



for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, is the new president of INSA, the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. Gadagkar holds a B.Sc [Hons] and MSc in zoology from Bangalore University and a PhD in molecular biology from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He has become an international expert in eusocial insects such as ants, bees and wasps and has established a school of research in the area of animal behaviour, ecology and evolution.

The author of more than 250 scientific papers, Gadagkar has also

penned two books: *Survival Strategies - Cooperation and Conflict in Animal Societies* and *The Social Biology of Ropalidia marginata: Toward Understanding the Evolution of Eusociality*.

He serves in many national and international scientific bodies and government advisory committees, and is the recipient of several prestigious awards including the Shanthi Swarup Bhatnagar Prize and the B.M.Birla Science Prize.

RAMKISSOON TO LEAD PANEL

Harold Ramkissoon, a mathematician and TWAS Fellow [2003], is the new chair of the CARICOM Science, Technology and Innovation Committee, established to promote economic integration and cooperation in the Caribbean region.

The Caribbean Community [or CARICOM] is an organization of 15 nations and dependencies established in 1973 to promote economic



integration and cooperation among its members.

Ramkissoon, who represents Latin America and the Caribbean on the TWAS Council, is an independent senator in the Trinidad

and Tobago government.

He also serves on the board of the UNESCO

International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation.

Within the Caribbean S&T panel he will work to strengthen S&T capacity in the region to promote economic and social development.



PANZA ELECTED TO LINCEI

Giuliano Panza, a professor of seismology at the University of Trieste [Italy] and TWAS Fellow [1996], has been elected national member of the Italian Accademia dei Lincei, one of the oldest and most prestigious scientific academies in the world.

Panza lives in Trieste, where he leads the SAND research group at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics. He

is an expert in the study of seismic waves, and has had

a pivotal role in the accomplishment of time-dependent

hazard models that were much appreciated by the Italian Civil Defence.

During his career, Panza has received many prestigious awards. They include: The Beno Gutenberg medal from the European Union of Geosciences for outstanding contributions to international seismology; the Laurea





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honoris causa in Physics; and the medal of honour of the Central European Initiative.

He has authored and co-authored more than 500 peer reviewed papers and more than ten books.

LITTLEWOOD NAMED ARGONNE DIRECTOR

Peter B. Littlewood, an associate laboratory director for physical sciences and engineering at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) and a TWAS Fellow (2010), is the new ANL director.

ANL is a non-profit multidisciplinary research laboratory operated by the University of Chicago for the US Department of Energy (DOE), with 15 research divisions, 1,250 scientists and engineers, and projects in fields such as energy, environment, security and high-performance computing.

Littlewood succeeds the 12th director, Eric D. Isaac, who took a new position as a provost at University of Chicago in March. He joined ANL in 2011 as the new associate laboratory director of Argonne's physical sciences and engineering. Before moving to Argonne, Littlewood was the head of the Cavendish Laboratory and the department of physics. He was also at Los Alamos National Laboratory where he carried out research in theoretical physics, materials science, atomic physics and nuclear radiation detection.

Littlewood also serves as a professor of physics in the James Franck Institute at the University of Chicago. He holds six patents and has published



more than 200 articles in scientific journals.

DEL PINO GIVES RHODES LECTURE

Eugenia Maria del Pino, an internationally recognized scientist, educator, and conservationist

from Ecuador, was invited to give the Rhodes Lectureship 2014, on 23 April.

Del Pino, a TWAS Fellow (1989) and professor at the Department of Biological Sciences, *Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Ecuador*, studies the development of non-model amphibians by comparing features of about 40 different species of marsupial frogs.

She is a pioneering educator in developmental biology, and her work has been recognized by many awards, including the L'Oréal/UNESCO Prize for Women in Science for Latin America (2000).



FUCUGAUCHI HONOURED

Jaime Urrutia Fucugauchi, a TWAS Fellow (2004) and director of the Institute of Geophysics at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), has received the 2013 International Award from the American Geophysical Union.

The award honours "an individual scientist or a small team for making an outstanding contribution to furthering the Earth and space sciences and using science for the benefit of society in developing nations."

Fucugauchi has had international experience from his earliest days. [Urrutia means "distant" in Basque, and Fucugauchi means roughly "Good

luck-come in!" in Japanese]. He earned his bachelor's degree at UNAM and his PhD at the University of Newcastle (UK). During a one-year postdoc at the University of Michigan (USA), he carried out research in palaeomagnetism and nuclear geophysics.

In 1997, he became the director of the Institute of Geophysics at UNAM, and his work has fostered many international collaborations. He gave invaluable contributions to the exploration of the *Chicxulub* crater, a prehistoric impact crater buried underneath the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico.

PARKIN WINS MAJOR PRIZE

Stuart S.P. Parkin, a British-American physicist and a TWAS Fellow, won the EUR 1 million Millennium Technology Prize in April 2014. The biennial prize acknowledges Parkin's discovery that will allow a thousand-fold increase in storing digital data on magnetic discs compared to past technology.

Parkin, a consulting professor at Stanford University (California) has been recently appointed director of the Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics at Halle (Germany).

He works in the field of spintronics (short for "spin electronics"), devices that take advantage of electrons' quantum property called "spin". Parkin's scientific contribution will lead to storage devices that are not only much faster than conventional disk drives, but also less expensive.

