
PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS

IN MEMORIAM: GUY BLAUDIN DE THÉ

Guy Blaudin de Thé, the founding co-chair of the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP), passed away on 7 August 2014. He was a pioneer in research on virus-related cancer and the head of the unit of biological carcinogenesis at the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France.

Blaudin de Thé spent his career trying to understand cancer and its relation with viruses. He propelled seminal investigations on the link between the Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) and the development of Burkitt lymphoma in African children. He has also studied a very common EBV-associated tumour, the nasopharyngeal carcinoma, which is quite common in some regions of China.

He was elected founding co-chair of IAMP at a time when 16 academies were in the panel; today there are 73. He was re-elected again for the term 2006-2010. During these terms he propelled successful initiatives to build capacity among member academies, including a maternal and perinatal mortality project.

JUMA RECEIVES AFRICAN FOOD PRIZE

Kenyan scientist **Calestous Juma** (TWAS Fellow 2005), one of the most authoritative voices of agricultural innovation in Africa, is among the 2014 Lifetime Africa Achievement Prize Laureates. The award is bestowed every two years by the Millennium Excellence Foundation, to acknowledge iconic individuals who have greatly contributed to the empowerment of the African continent.



Juma, in particular, was awarded the "Prize for Food Security, Agro Processing Development and Quality". The ceremony took place in Uyo, Nigeria, on 10 October. Among the 15 winners were heads of state, academicians, and political leaders. Juma is professor of the practice of international development at Harvard Kennedy School (USA) and the director of the science, technology and globalization project there. He is also a former executive secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and founding director of the African Centre for Technology Studies in Nairobi.

He is internationally renowned for his contribution to policy research regarding the application of science, technology and engineering to development. In 2007, he was named one of Kenya's 100 most influential people.



ATTA-UR-RAHMAN HONOURED BY CHINA

Pakistani chemist **Atta-ur-Rahman**, a TWAS Fellow (1985) and the President of the Network of Academies of Science of Islamic Countries, received "The Friendship Award of China" on 29 September 2014. The prize acknowledges "foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to the country's economic and social progress". The ceremony was held in Beijing, where Bai Chunli, the president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and of TWAS, delivered the prize. Rahman has been a visionary leader

of science education in Pakistan and champion of international relations. In particular, he has worked to build bonds between Pakistan and China, in the fields of science and higher education.

In the field of organic chemistry, he is well known for elucidation of bioactive compounds, and for developing new methods to clarify chemical structures. He was elected as a Fellow of Royal Society (London) and made an Honorary Life Fellow at Kings College, Cambridge University. He has authored almost 1,000 scientific publications and signed 37 international patents, and he has promoted a nation-wide training project aimed at teaching China's Mandarin language to Pakistani students.



PANZA HONOURED BY EGYPT

Giuliano Panza, a distinguished Italian seismologist and a TWAS Fellow (1996), has been awarded the prestigious National Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG) Honorary Medal. The award to Panza and his Structure and Non-Linear Dynamics of the Earth (SAND) team comes from the Egyptian Ministry of Scientific Research and is bestowed for high-impact scientific accomplishments.

Panza, who is head of the SAND group at the Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics, received the prize for his "fundamental scientific contributions for the better understanding of





PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS

dynamics of the lithosphere-asthenosphere system” [two Earth sections that include the crust and the upper solid mantle, and the section just below it].

Panza is among the world-renowned seismologists who have developed realistic seismic hazard assessment methodologies and earthquake prediction.

The award ceremony took place during the opening ceremony of the 4th Arab conference of Astronomy and Geophysics on 20 October 2014, at Helwan, Egypt.

C.R. RAO WINS THE NEYMAN MEDAL

C.R. Rao, a TWAS Founding Fellow from India and Eberly Professor emeritus of statistics at Pennsylvania State University, is the recipient of the Jerzy Splawa-Neyman Medal awarded every year by the Polish Statistical Society.

Rao was awarded the medal in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the theory, applications and teaching of statistics and his commitment to the field. The medal is named after Jerzy Neyman, an eminent statisticians of the last century who propelled the emergence of statistics as an independent discipline by developing the theory of hypothesis testing.

The Medal was established in 2010 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Polish

Statistical Association, which honours the best statisticians in the world, along with scientists who have given meaningful contributions to statistics.



Rao is a professor at Buffalo University and a member of the Royal Society, London, of the US National Academy of Sciences, and of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

TWAS FELLOW MASHELKAR WINS PADMA VIBHUSHAN PRIZE

Indian chemical engineer and TWAS Fellow **Raghunath A. Mashelkar** has been awarded the 2014 Padma Vibhushan prize, the second highest civilian award in the Republic of India. Mashelkar, a professor at the National Chemical Laboratory in Pune, India, and the president of Global Research Alliance, is also the former director general of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, an ensemble of 38 publicly funded industrial research and development institutions in India.

Mashelkar’s career has focused both on scientific research and on science diplomacy. His passionate enthusiasm for chemistry led him to bring important contributions in the field of transport phenomena and in the thermodynamics of swelling. He is also known for his contribution to the intellectual property movement, which succeeded in revoking some US patents on Indian products such as turmeric and Basmati rice, raising awareness on the importance of protecting traditional Indian products and knowledge.

The Padma Vibhushan recognizes people who have provided exceptional and distinguished service to India in any field.



LUBCHENCO NEW U.S. OCEAN ENVOY

Environmental sciences pioneer **Jane Lubchenco**, a 2004 TWAS Fellow and distinguished professor of marine biology at Oregon State University, is the first US science envoy for the oceans.

Her nomination by US President Barack Obama is part of the science envoy programme, aimed at building science-based relationships between the US and other nations.

Lubchenco was the first woman administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]. She has made seminal contributions to marine ecology by discovering the ecological and evolutionary bonds that link animals and plants in coastal systems. Her studies have provided deep insight on factors that affect the distribution, abundance and biodiversity of marine species.

A distinguished scholar and pragmatic policy-maker, Lubchenco is a passionate advocate of the importance of reversing the oceans’ degradation while continuing to benefit from their abundant resources.



BE A CONTRIBUTOR

Do you have news for People, Places & Events?

Please send an email to Cristina Serra [cserra@twas.org] with a brief explanation, links to more details, and contact information.