

## AWARDS

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This year's prestigious Dirac medal, awarded by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy, goes to **Howard Georgi** of Harvard, **Jogesh Pati** of Maryland and **Helen Quinn** of SLAC, Stanford, for their "pioneering contributions to the quest for a unified theory of quarks and leptons and the strong, weak and electromagnetic interactions." The early 1970s saw a series of landmark papers on candidate unified theories. Pati and Abdus Salam, working at ICTP, proposed the first scheme to group together

quarks and leptons, leading to the awareness that proton decay is possible. Georgi (with Sheldon Glashow) proposed the archetypal SU(5) unification scheme before going on to investigate further possibilities. Georgi and Quinn, collaborating with Steven Weinberg, showed how the strong and electroweak couplings could vary with energy and where such a unification could occur. This is the first time that the medal has gone to a female physicist. The ICTP Dirac medal is awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions to physics and mathematics, but Nobel or Wolf prizewinners are not eligible.