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Dirac Medal for Sir Sam

15 August 2005[Useful links](#)

Sir Sam Edwards, Emeritus Cavendish Professor of the University of Cambridge, has been awarded the 2005 Dirac Medal by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP).

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The Medal is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to theoretical physics and mathematics and is named in memory of the distinguished physicist PAM Dirac.

The ICTP said that Sir Sam had been honoured for his fundamental contributions to polymer physics, spin glass theory and the physics of granular matter, and described him as one of the founding fathers of condensed matter physics.

Originally from Swansea, Sir Sam was educated at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge and Harvard University, and was taught quantum mechanics by PAM Dirac. He returned to Cambridge in 1972 and, in 1984, was appointed Cavendish Professor of Physics, a post previously held by JJ Thomson and Ernest Rutherford. A Fellow of the Royal Society, he was knighted in 1975 and has won numerous honours and prizes for his contribution to scientific research.

Sir Sam retired from the Cavendish and his role as Pro-Vice-Chancellor in 1995, but remains an active and valued member of the University.

He shares the 2005 Dirac Medal with Patrick A Lee, William and Emma Rogers Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor Lee and Sir Sam were awarded the Medal on 8 August, the anniversary of PAM Dirac's birthday.

For further information, please contact the University of Cambridge Press Office on 01223 332300

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