

International Centre for Theoretical Physics

*P.A.M. Dirac Medals
Presentation Ceremony*



28 July 1992

*Strada Costiera, 11
34136 Trieste*

P.A.M. Dirac Medals

The Dirac Medals of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics were instituted in 1985. These are awarded yearly both to a senior and to a younger physicist, on Dirac's birthday - 8th August - for contributions to theoretical physics.

The Selection Committee includes Professors S. Lundqvist, R. Marshak, J. Schwinger, E. Witten, S. Weinberg and Abdus Salam. The Dirac Medals are not awarded to Nobel Laureates or Wolf Foundation Prize winners.

DIRAC MEDALISTS

The 1985 Dirac Medals were awarded to Professor Yakov Zeldovich (Institute for Space Research, Moscow, USSR) and Professor Edward Witten (Princeton University, USA) and in 1986 to Professor Yoichiro Nambu (Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies, Chicago University, USA) and Professor Alexander Polyakov (Landau Institute for Theoretical Physics, Moscow, USSR). In 1987, they were awarded to Professor Bryce DeWitt (University of Texas at Austin, USA) and Professor Bruno Zumino (University of California at Berkeley, USA) and in 1988 to Professor David J. Gross (Princeton University, New Jersey, USA) and to Professor Efim Samoilovich Fradkin (Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, USSR). The 1989 Dirac Medals were awarded to Professor Michael B. Green (Queen Mary College, University of London, UK) and Professor John H. Schwarz (California Institute of Technology, USA). The 1990 Dirac Medals were awarded to Professor Ludwig Dmitriyevich Faddeev (Steklov Mathematical Institute, Leningrad, USSR) and Professor Sidney Richard Coleman (Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA). The recipients of the 1991 Dirac Medal are Professor Stanley Mandelstam (University of California, Berkeley, USA) and Professor Jeffrey Goldstone (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Ma., USA)

Dirac Medal 1991

Jeffrey Goldstone

Professor Jeffrey Goldstone is honoured:

"for his fundamental clarification of the phenomenon of spontaneous symmetry violation in relativistic quantum field theory. This phenomenon has come to occupy a central role in our understanding of elementary particles, and Goldstone's work is now among the foundations of the standard model of fundamental interactions. The ensuing massless bosons, known as Goldstone bosons, have found crucial applications also in many spontaneous symmetry breaking processes in condensed matter physics."

Prof. J. Goldstone was born in Manchester, England in 1933. He obtained his Ph.D. at Cambridge University (Trinity College) in 1958. He began his career as a Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge University (1956-60) where he was then appointed Staff Fellow (1962-82). Between 1961 and 1976 he was University Lecturer in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge and in 1976 he became Reader in Mathematical Physics at the same University. In 1977 he joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as Professor of Physics, where he was then appointed as Director of the Center of Theoretical Physics (1983-89) and in 1983 Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics.

He held the position of Visiting Professor in many scientific institutions in Europe and in the USA. He is Fellow of the Royal Society (1970), Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1977), he received the Dannie Heinemann Prize of the American Physical Society (1981) and the Guthrie Medal of the Institute of Physics, London (1983). He is Fellow of the American Physical Society (1987). Professor J. Goldstone is the author of many scientific publications.

The other 1991 Dirac Medal has been awarded to Professor S. Mandelstam (University of California at Berkeley, USA)

P.A.M. Dirac (1902 - 1984)

Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac was born in Bristol in 1902. He studied engineering in his hometown, and obtained his degree in physics and mathematics at Cambridge University where he became professor in mathematics in 1932 in the Lucasian chair which was once of Sir Isaac Newton. After his retirement, Professor Dirac went to live in Tallahassee, Florida, where he taught at the University from 1971 until his death in 1984. A Member of the Royal Society since 1930, he won the Royal Medal in 1939 and the Copley Medal in 1952. He shared the Nobel Prize for Physics with E. Schrödinger in 1933.

Professor Dirac was an honoured guest and a staunch friend of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste.