

Issue no. 1

IOP Nuclear and Particle Physics Division Prize 2008

We are very pleased to announce that Rodi Herzberg from the University of Liverpool has been awarded the IOP Nuclear and Particle Physics Division Prize for 2008. This prize is for researchers who have had strong achievements in the last five years, and is in competition across all the parts of the division, including particle physics.



Professor Rodi Herzberg from the University of Liverpool

Rodi was nominated by the Nuclear Physics Group in recognition of his important work on superheavy nuclei.

Rodi has established a very strong international reputation in this area and is a frequent invited speaker on this topic at international conferences.

The focus of Rodi's work has been on excited states in nuclei around 254No . Latterly, he has led a series of experiments at the University of Jyvaskyla in Finland, which study odd mass nuclei and isomeric states in these superheavy nuclei. This makes it possible to determine which proton and neutron levels lie near the Fermi surface, and to discriminate between different nuclear models. The long term hope is that such work will contribute to the prediction of the next shell closure for protons, and hence the location of the superheavy island of stability.

New committee for IOP Nuclear Physics Group

At the AGM held in Liverpool in April 2008, the composition of the IOP Nuclear Physics Group committee changed, as some came to the end of the terms and new members were elected. We thank Roy Lemmon (ex Chair) and Dave Cullen (ex Hon. Secretary) for their work on behalf of the group. The new committee is comprised of the following:

Dave Ireland (University of Glasgow) – Chair (d.ireland@physics.gla.ac.uk)

Dave Jenkins (University of York) – Honorary Secretary (dj4@york.ac.uk)

Dave Joss (University of Liverpool)

Paul Stephenson (University of Surrey)

Marc Labiche (Daresbury Laboratory)

Dan Watts (University of Edinburgh)

Carl Wheldon (University of Birmingham)

Paul Campbell (University of Manchester)

John Smith (University of the West of Scotland)

Andrew Simons (AWE)

We are presently in need of student representatives to better represent our younger members. Those interested should contact the honorary secretary about being co-opted onto the committee.

Membership of IOP groups – now free for all

The IOP have recently made it free for members to join as many groups as they choose. This is clearly to the benefit of all and may encourage people to join additional groups away from their primary area of work or study. Please therefore encourage your colleagues to sign up for the nuclear physics group. It is straightforward to join up via the MyIOP system on the IOP's webpages. The more who join the group, the better we represent the interested community and the more recognition we will receive from the IOP.

Half-day meetings and conferences

One of the main functions of the group is to support IOP half day meetings on topics related to the remit of the group. There has been a diverse programme of generally well-attended meetings over the last few years. The Group would encourage people interested in organising such meetings to contact the chair or honorary secretary. The next IOP Nuclear Physics Conference will be held in Birmingham in March/April 2009. The next IOP Nuclear and Particle Division Conference will be held in Glasgow in 2011.

Outreach

The Nuclear Physics Group would like to support outreach and public engagement activities which are initiated by its members. David Jenkins (honorary secretary) is currently an STFC Science-in-Society Fellow and can help to support your event. Moreover, both the IOP and STFC (Small Award Scheme) offer possibilities to obtain small scale funding for such events. In June 2008, the Nuclear Physics Groups from the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool and York worked together to stage a teachers conference on nuclear and particle physics and their applications, held at the National Science Learning Centre in York. Fifty teachers from across the UK attended this event supported by the IOP Nuclear Physics Group and STFC. Presentations were given on nuclear physics (David Jenkins, York), nuclear energy (Paul Howarth, Manchester) and medical imaging (Ren Cooper, Liverpool). An exhibition of radiation detectors and applications was presented by PhD students from the groups. The event will run again in June 2009 in York, after which it is hoped that it will run annually at different locations throughout the UK.



Oliver Roberts (PhD student at York) demonstrates scintillator detectors to teachers at the teachers conference

Support for students to attend conferences

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IOP Institute of Physics

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