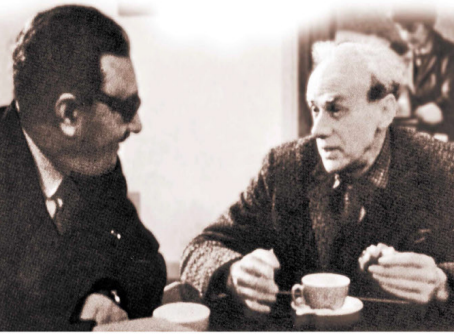


DIRAC MEDAL



Abdus Salam with P.A.M. Dirac
Cambridge University, 1965



The Abdus Salam
International Centre
for Theoretical Physics



2020 DIRAC MEDAL CEREMONY

22 October 2021
14:00 CET

Budinich Lecture Hall and online



The Abdus Salam
International Centre
for Theoretical Physics



THE 2020 DIRAC MEDAL AND PRIZE

ICTP has awarded its 2020 Dirac Medal and Prize to three distinguished physicists – André Neveu of University of Montpellier, Pierre Ramond of University of Florida, and Miguel Virasoro of Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento – “for their pioneering contributions to the inception and formulation of string theory which introduced new Bosonic and Fermionic symmetries into physics”.

CEREMONY PROGRAMME

Welcome remarks, ICTP Director Atish Dabholkar

Introduction of Prof. André Neveu - by Prof. Jeff Harvey,
University of Chicago

Talk by Prof. André Neveu - Perturbatively Conserved Higher
Nonlocal Charges of Free-surface Deep-water Gravity Waves

Introduction of Prof. Pierre Ramond - by Prof. Jeff Harvey

Talk by Prof. Pierre Ramond - Following Dirac's Footsteps

Introduction of Prof. Miguel Virasoro - by Prof. Jeff Harvey

Alejandra Figliola - (accepting the award on behalf of her
husband)

Question and Answer session

15:35 Coffee break

In memoriam:
Prof. Miguel Virasoro
Budinich Lecture Hall
16:00 CET

Welcome remarks, ICTP Director Atish Dabholkar

Alejandra Figliola

Prof. Gabriele Veneziano, Honorary Member, CERN- (virtual presence)

Prof. Giorgio Parisi, University of Rome La Sapienza, and 2021 Physics Nobel Laureate

Prof. Daniele Amati, Former SISSA Director

Closing remarks, Atish Dabholkar

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

Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac was born in Bristol, England, on 8 August 1902. He studied engineering in his hometown, and obtained his degree in physics and mathematics at Cambridge University, where in 1932 he became professor of mathematics in the Lucasian Chair, which had been held by Sir Isaac Newton two centuries earlier. After his retirement, Professor Dirac went to live in Tallahassee, Florida, where he taught at Florida State University from 1971 until his death on 20 October 1984.

A member of the Royal Society since 1930, he won the Royal Medal in 1939 and the Copley Medal in 1952. Professor Dirac shared the Nobel Prize for Physics with Erwin Schrödinger in 1933. He invented the well-known relativistic wave equation predicting the existence of spin and of the positron when he was only 23 years old. His further work includes his formulations of quantum field theory, statistics of fields and particles, gravitational waves and the prediction of magnetic monopoles.

Dirac first came to Trieste in June 1968 on the occasion of the International Symposium on Contemporary Physics, at which he delivered a lecture on the methods of theoretical physics. After this symposium, Dirac was a guest of honour at the Centre for a month or so nearly every year. In 1972, at a symposium on The Physicists' Conception of Nature organized in honour of Dirac on the occasion of his 70th birthday, he gave a lecture on Fundamental Constants and their Development in Time. Dirac also attended the Marcel Grossman Meeting held at the Centre on the centennial of the birth of Albert Einstein in 1979.

Abdus Salam, who proposed the institution of the Dirac Medal, was Dirac's student at Cambridge and it was after having listened to Dirac's lectures that he decided to devote his life to research rather than becoming a civil servant in his country. He remained in touch with his master and became his friend.