



ESF Awards the 2005 European Latsis Prize to Prof. Donal Bradley, a Pioneer in Nano-Engineering

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The European Science Foundation (ESF) has awarded this year's European Latsis Prize to Professor Donal Bradley from Imperial College, London.

Prof. Bradley wins the prize for his pioneering contributions and leading role in the development of the semi-conductor properties of conjugated polymers and related materials. His research activity underpins technology that is now being commercialised for flat panel displays, and is under development for solar energy conversion, electronic circuits, imaging devices, microanalysis systems and active components in polymer waveguide/plastic fibre-based data communication.

"At the young age of 43, Donal Bradley has already achieved outstanding results and distinctions in his scientific career," said ESF President Dr. Reinder van Duinen, who presented Prof. Bradley with the Latsis Prize in a ceremony during ESF's annual General Assembly in Strasbourg on November 24. "His achievements, both academic and scientific, are illustrative of a true leader in scientific research."

The theme of the 2005 Latsis Prize was nano-engineering. In commenting on his award, Prof. Bradley said, "It's great to see your research recognised by an international body. It gives you an impression that what you're doing is well considered in the scientific community. The Latsis Prize is clearly an important prize because it has a remit which changes each year and therefore it's looking at evolving areas of science."

Prof. Bradley believes this year's prize on nano-engineering is very topical and timely as molecular materials and devices are being recognised as an important component in nano-engineering. "The ability to engineer the properties of molecular materials is enabling their application in a wide range of sectors, principally in light emission for displays in a commercial setting," he said. "This is increasingly so in other future application areas, so we're now looking at transistors, solar cells, lasers, amplifiers and so on."

Prof. Bradley is currently Head of the Molecular Electronic Materials section of the Blackett Laboratory's Experimental Solid State Physics Group at Imperial College, London. He is leading the development of an extensive programme of research across the physical/chemistry interface. He is widely published and many of his more than 400 research papers are exceptionally highly cited. He is one of the world's most-cited physicists.

The European Latsis Prize, valued at 100,000 Swiss francs (€65,000) is financed by the Geneva-based Latsis Foundation and awarded by ESF to an individual or group who, in the opinion of their peers, has made the greatest contribution to a particular field of European research.

During the presentation ceremony for the 2005 Latsis Prize, ESF announced the theme for the 2006 Latsis Prize - Immigration and Social Cohesion in Modern Times.