

## **Dr. Bernd T. Matthias awarded 1979 American Physical Society International Prize for New Materials**

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Dr. Bernd T. Matthias, professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded the 1979 American Physical Society International Prize for New Materials.

Matthias, an authority on superconductivity and director of UC San Diego's Institute for Pure and Applied Physical Sciences, will share the honor with John K. Klum, a physicist with Westinghouse Research Laboratory in Pittsburgh, and J. E. Kunzler, a physicist with Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

The prize will be awarded during the March 20, 1979 meeting of the American Physical Society in Chicago.

The citation to be presented to Matthias reads: "For his discovery of intermetallic compounds and alloys exhibiting unusually high superconducting transition temperatures, and for their demonstration that these materials retain their superconductivity under conditions of high currents and fields, thereby opening up the practical application of superconductivity to electric power technology and the magnetic confinement of plasma in future thermonuclear fusion reactors."

Matthias joined the UC San Diego faculty as professor of physics in September 1961 after 13 years with the Bell Telephone Laboratories. He received his Ph.D. in physics from the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1943.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors including an honorary doctor's degree in science from the University of Lausanne in Switzerland last November. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1965.

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