

UCSD physicist George Feher named Fellow of EPR/ESR Society

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George Feher, research professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego, has been named a Fellow of the International EPR/ESR Society, in recognition for his outstanding contributions to electron spin resonance spectroscopy.

Three scientists including Feher were elected this year to the society, established about a year ago to support researchers involved with electron paramagnetic resonance or electron spin resonance.

Feher, who has been working in this field for the past 40 years, is best known for the development of a technique called electron nuclear double resonance, or ENDOR, a powerful tool used to study the magnetic interaction between atomic nuclei and electrons, important for studying the structure and function of molecules.

In his lab, Feher has used the technique to identify and characterize the primary molecules involved in photosynthesis, the process by which light is converted into chemical energy.

Feher, a native of Czechoslovakia, received his Bachelor of Science degree in engineering physics from UC Berkeley, followed by a M.S. degree in electrical engineering and a Ph.D. in physics.

After completing his graduate work, Feher joined the staff of Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J. where he worked as a research physicist for six years. His academic career began at Columbia University in 1956 as a visiting associate professor. In 1960, Feher joined the UCSD faculty as a physics professor.

Feher, elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1975 and the American Academy of Sciences in 1977, is the recipient of the American Physical Society Prize in 1960, the 1976 Oliver E. Buckley Solid State Physics Prize, the 1982 American Physical Society Biophysics Prize.

More recently, Feher was awarded the 1992 Rumford Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was chosen to be the first recipient of the Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) Society's annual award.

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