

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard honors Dr. David R. Inglis with first annual Leo Szilard Award for Physics in the Public Interest

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Dr. David R. Inglis, Professor of Physics at the University of Massachusetts, accepts the first annual Leo Szilard Award for Physics in the Public Interest from Szilard's widow, Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard of the University of California, San Diego. The award was presented recently during the annual meeting of the American Physical Society in Washington, D.C.

The Szilard Award was established in honor of Dr. Leo Szilard, the Hungarian-born nuclear physicist, author, and leader in the efforts of scientists to control nuclear weapons. Szilard was among the first to conceive of an atomic chain reaction and to recognize what it would mean to the world. He played a crucial role in the early stages of the A-bomb project and shared, with Enrico Fermi, the patent on the first nuclear reactor, which demonstrated the feasibility of a controlled chain reaction.

When the war was over, Szilard led a successful lobbying effort by atomic scientists to ensure civilian control of atomic energy. He worked the last two decades of his life at the University of Chicago receiving the Atoms for Peace Award in 1959.

Mrs. Szilard, who holds a master's degree in public health from Columbia University and an M.D. from the University of Vienna, is a lecturer in the Department of Community Medicine at the UCSD School of Medicine. She edited the scientific writings of her late husband for publication by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press in late 1972 and is currently compiling the scientist's social and political writings, his fiction, and his taped interviews and speeches for publication as his collected works.

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