

PRESS RELEASE

Erio Tosatti, physicist at SISSA and ICTP, among the winners of the “Enrico Fermi” Prize 2018

The Italian Physical Society rewards the scientist, born in the province of Modena and working in Trieste for many years, for his studies on the structure of matter



Trieste, 27 July 2018

"I am honored by the very ambitious Fermi Prize, moved by the consideration and support of many colleagues and friends, and flattered by the company of Federico Capasso and Lev Pitaevskii, scientists whose contributions are immortal." Erio Tosatti, Professor Emeritus of SISSA - International School of Advanced Studies and co-founder and senior member of the Condensed Matter and Statistical Physics section of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), comments on the award of the 2018 “Enrico Fermi” Prize, the Italian Physical Society's (SIF) highest honor.

Established in 2001, on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of the eminent Italian physicist, the award is given annually to one or more scientists who have particularly honored physics with their discoveries. Erio Tosatti, Federico Capasso of Harvard University and Lev Pitaevskii of the University of Trento were awarded with the 2018 edition for their “outstanding contributions in

understanding the quantum properties of condensed matter". The statement by SIF underlines Tosatti's "fundamental theoretical contributions aimed to understand the optical properties of solids, in particular of surface and transport phenomena, even in extreme conditions of dimensional confinement, high temperature and pressure".

"I dedicate this recognition first of all to my family, who supported me and accompanied me at every step, to my nieces Chloe and Stella Ilce and their laughing eyes, to SISSA and ICTP where I worked and, last but not least, to my great and beloved masters and/or colleagues Laura Fini Grossi, Remo Randighieri, Franco Bassani, Phil Anderson, Paolo Budinich, Daniele Amati."

Arriving in Trieste for the first time in 1977, Tosatti founded SISSA's Condensed Matter Theory Sector and directed it for more than 30 years (from 1980 to 2014). He has held various positions, including that of ICTP Director *ad interim* (from 2002 to 2003). He has received several awards, such as the Tate Medal for International Leadership in Physics from the American Institute of Physics (2005), and honors, including the appointment as Foreign Associate by the US National Academy of Sciences in 2011. His career is studded with acknowledgments and a look towards the future: "I have a European Research Council grant that expires in April and I am working to start other projects with a group in Basel." Tosatti adds "I still have to grow up."

The awarding will take place on 17 September 2018 during the opening ceremony of the 104th National Congress of the Italian Physical Society in Arcavacata di Rende (CS).

"ENRICO FERMI" PRIZE

https://www.sif.it/attivita/premio_fermi

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