

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

1204 Whiskey Road, Suite B, Aiken, SC 29803

(803) 649-3456 /www.CNTAaware.com

October 28, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Marra
(803) 649-3456

2020 Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award Winner Announced

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2020 Fred C. Davidson Distinguished Scientist Award is Dr. Paul F. Cloessner. This prestigious award was announced on October 22, 2020 at the Up and Atom breakfast in Aiken, SC.

Dr. Cloessner is a Laboratory Fellow at the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). He advises SRNL, corporate, and government leaders on critical national security issues and serves on the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Advisory Council. He is a nationally recognized authority on heavy water reactor fuel production, plutonium production and uranium recycling, tritium production and processing, warhead gas transfer systems, and high level waste management.

Dr. Cloessner received his B.S. in Chemistry at Louisiana State University in 1979 and his Ph.D. in Nuclear Chemistry from Florida State University in 1985. Since starting as a Research Chemist at SRNL in 1984, he continually moved up to more challenging positions with greater responsibility. These include Manager for Weapons Technology in 1998, Director of Defense Programs Technology in 2003, and Director of Nonproliferation Technology in 2010. He was named the Deputy Associate Laboratory Director in 2010, Laboratory Fellow in 2013, and Vice President NNSA Chief Business Officer in 2018.

Dr. Cloessner's technical and managerial acumen were evidenced by his development of the enterprise strategy for SRNL and his leading a NNSA effort across multiple sites to establish a codified and accurate plan for the management of the nation's tritium supply. He also made important contributions to the 2018 U.S. Nuclear Posture Review to guide future nuclear security policy and nuclear weapons strategy.

Dr. Cloessner received the American Society of Testing and Materials Nuclear Fuel Cycle Achievement Award in 1994, the Sandia National Laboratory SP981 Stem Remediation Project Award in 1999, and the NNSA Defense Programs Award of Excellence in 2015. He is a member of the American Physical Society, the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, the American Nuclear Society, serves on the CNTA Board of Directors and CNTA's Executive Committee.

"Dr. Cloessner serves as a resource in problem solving for staff of all levels," said Laboratory Director Dr. Vahid Majidi. "I have found Paul to be a great mentor and an irreplaceable asset at SRNL."

"One of Paul's strengths is recognizing issues of national and international strategic importance, working with colleagues within the Nuclear Weapons Complex to build coalitions of experts, and elevating these to the attention of senior government leaders and policy makers," said David Wilson, SRNL Associate Laboratory Director for National Security.

“Dr. Cloessner has a remarkable blend of intelligence, experience, judgment, passion, and humility that makes him an exceptional technical expert and leader,” said David E. Eyler, Los Alamos National Laboratory Associate Director. “I could always rely on Dr. Cloessner to provide exceptional leadership to any organization we asked him to lead, delivering exceptional results with high quality and efficiency.”

The Distinguished Scientist Award is presented annually to recognize regional scientists and engineers who have made exceptional lifetime scientific achievements. The award is in honor of Dr. Fred C. Davison who was Chairman of CNTA's Board of Directors from 1994 until his death in 2004.

Davison was President of the University of Georgia for 19 years where he encouraged math and science education and managed the doubling of graduate enrollment. Davison was also President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Science Center Foundation, President of the Georgia-Carolina Boy Scouts Council, an elder at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, and an active Rotarian.

CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization dedicated to providing factual information about nuclear topics and educating the public on nuclear issues. For further information, call CNTA at 803-649-3456 or e-mail at cnta@bellsouth.net.

- 30 -

