

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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2021 Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award Winner Announced

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2021 Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award is Dr. Theodore (Ted) Besmann. This prestigious award was announced on October 28, 2021, at the 30th Annual Teller Lecture and Banquet held in Aiken, SC.

Dr. Besmann is Professor and SmartState Chair, and Director of the General Atomics Center of Economic Excellence, in the Nuclear Engineering Program at the University of South Carolina (USC). He is currently the Deputy Director of the “Center for Hierarchical Waste Forms” Energy Frontiers Research Center (EFRC) for the U.S. Department of Energy. He advises students in the Mechanical Engineering and Nuclear Engineering graduate programs and is an adjunct faculty member in Chemical Engineering.

Dr. Besmann received his B.E. in Chemical Engineering at New York University in 1970, his M.S. in Nuclear Engineering from Iowa State University in 1971, and his Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1976. From 1975 to 1985 he was a member of the Chemical Technology Division development staff at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and, from 1985 to 2014, the head of the Surface Processing and Mechanics Group in the Materials Science and Technology Division at ORNL. From 2011 to 2014, he was a Full Professor in Nuclear Engineering at the University of Tennessee – ORNL, and has been on the faculty at USC from 2014 to the present.

Dr. Besmann is noted for his groundbreaking research in the modeling of nuclear fuels and other materials. His name is attached to the “Lindemer-Besmann” model for uranium oxide fuels, and his numerous publications have accumulated over 5,000 citations. These publications include over 160 refereed journal and proceedings papers, six book chapters, and the co-authorship of *A Desirable Energy Future*. He holds six patents and is the Associate Editor of the *Journal of the American Ceramic Society*.

Dr. Besmann is the former Chair of the Materials Research Society Government Affairs Committee, the former Vice President for Corporate Relations in the American Ceramic Society, the current Chair of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency “Expert Group on Multi-scale Modelling of Fuels and Structural Materials,” and the current Vice-Chair to the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency program on “Thermodynamics of Advanced Fuels International Database.” He is the recipient of the D.T. Rankin Award in 2016, the ORNL/UT-Battelle Distinguished Engineer Award in 2010, and a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society in 2010.

“The impact of his results is exceptional, as demonstrated by the continuous, increasing number of citations of his work,” said Dr. Marius Stan, Senior Scientist and Program Leader at the Argonne National Laboratory. “His generosity in sharing scientific expertise and his willingness to help the younger generation of nuclear scientists is remarkable and adds to the impact of his work.”

“Professor Besmann is greatly admired for excellent teaching and mentorship; leadership of the SmartState Center and the EFRC; and for collegiality, balance, and valuable perspective among our faculty,” said former USC President Robert L. Caslen, Jr.

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.

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