

## ***CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS***

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### **2023 Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award Winner Announced**

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2023 Fred C. Davidson Distinguished Scientist Award is Dr. Eliel Villa-Aleman. This prestigious award was announced on October 24, 2023, at the 32nd Annual Teller Lecture and Banquet held in Aiken, SC.

Dr. Villa-Aleman has led research and development programs for the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) addressing critical national security needs across the U.S. Government. These advanced technology programs are in the fields of particle collection, instrumentation, and analysis; laser and general spectroscopy; advanced infrared imagery; remote sensing; Pu-bearing compounds and nuclear forensics; quantum entanglement; and prototype COVID face masks utilizing electrostatic precipitation technology to filtrate and clean air.

Dr. Villa-Aleman received his B.A. in Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico in 1979 and his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Wayne State University in 1987. His doctoral dissertation was entitled "Photoionization Studies of the Triplet State in a Supersonic Jet." He is a prolific author with numerous articles in peer reviewed publications in addition to internal SRNL technical reports.

Over the last 30 years, Dr. Villa-Aleman's research funding has exceeded \$20 million. He is a recognized expert to the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security. He has worked with research teams from across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex including Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratory. Dr. Villa-Aleman became a SRNL Laboratory Fellow in 2021.

"When it comes to particle science technical research and development, I consider Eliel the lead subject matter expert in this area. His technical competence and project management acumen are unmatched by his peers," said Christopher Iwan, a Program Manager at the Y-12 national Security Complex / Pantex Plant. "Eliel is one of the best at proposing technology advancing proposals and leading cutting-edge projects that advance scientific capabilities ... I have the upmost confidence in his technical abilities and consider him the standard bearer for all other Principal Investigators."

Commenting on his collaborations with Dr. Villa-Aleman, Daniel Orlikowski, the Nonproliferation Stewardship Program Lead at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, wrote that he, "Demonstrated 'out-of-the-box' thinking and was able to unlock strong insights on material science and metallurgical observables ... Eliel's leadership in particle collections is very useful to those designs in this field."

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](mailto:cnta@bellsouth.net).*

