

OLLI V. LOUNASMAA MEMORIAL PRIZE 2016



The Olli V. Lounasmaa Memorial Prize 2016 was awarded to Professor Michel Devoret from the Yale University (New Haven, USA), for his pioneering investigations and applications of macroscopic quantum phenomena at low temperatures. The prize was announced on August 16th 2016 at the international Quantum Fluids and Solids conference QFS2016 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Prof. Devoret was elected for the Prize by a Selection Committee consisting of Dr. Rob Blaauwgeers (founder and managing director of BlueFors Cryogenics Oy), Professors John Clarke (University of California, Berkeley, USA), Andrew Cleland (University of Chicago, USA), Vladimir Dmitriev (Kapitza Institute for Physical Problems, Moscow, Russia), Pertti Hakonen (chair, Aalto University), Kimitoshi Kono (RIKEN, Japan), Jukka Pekola (Aalto University), George Pickett (Lancaster University, UK), and Tuija Pulkkinen (vice rector of Aalto University).

Michel H. Devoret was born in France. He graduated from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Telecommunications in Paris in 1975, and received his PhD from Paris University in 1982. For more than four decades he has pioneered the discovery, understanding and application of quantum phenomena revealed in the low temperature regime. His contributions to the field of quantum electronics have set the stage for major advances in our knowledge of, and control over macroscopic quantum devices and systems. His scientific and technological foundations in superconducting circuits hold great potential to emerge as a dominant technology for quantum computation.

Prof. Devoret is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2003) and a member of the French Academy of Sciences (2008). He has received the Ampere Prize of the French Academy of Science (together with Daniel Esteve, 1991), the Descartes-Huygens Prize of the Royal Academy of Science of the Netherlands (1996) and the Europhysics-Agilent Prize of the European Physical Society (together with Daniel Esteve, Hans Mooij and Yasunobu Nakamura, 2004). He is also a recipient of the John Stewart Bell Prize, which he received jointly with Rob Schoelkopf in 2013. In 2014, he has been awarded, together with John Martinis and Rob Schoelkopf, the Fritz London Memorial Prize.

The establishment of the Prize Fund owes to the generosity of Kiti Müller (daughter of Lounasmaa) and the members of The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters for the endowment of the revenues obtained upon publishing the Memoirs of Olli V. Lounasmaa. Since 2016 the Fund receives endowment from BlueFors Cryogenics, a 2008 spin-off company from the Low Temperature Laboratory (established by Lounasmaa in 1965).