



Research Prizes awarded in Norway

– international scientific prizes of Nobel calibre

A number of international scientific prizes are awarded in Norway. The Abel Prize was awarded for the first time in 2003, followed by the Holberg Prize in 2004. In addition we can look forward to the awarding of three Kavli Prizes in 2008.

The Government of Norway believes it is important to honour outstanding scientists for their contribution to scientific knowledge, especially in an age when entertainment value and achievements of a much more transient nature often attract a great deal of attention. Another priority has been to identify scientific disciplines not already covered by international awards of Nobel Prize calibre.

The Government also believes that scientific prizes stimulate interest in research among the general public – children and young people being a particularly important target group. The prizes place outstanding science in the spotlight, and the winners serve as models that may have a major impact on recruitment to the disciplines in question. Furthermore, the prizes encourage quality science.

Last but not least, the Government wishes to put Norway on the international scientific map. Norway relies on international research cooperation and wishes to play its full part in the process.



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



**ABEL
PRISEN**

The Niels Henrik Abel Memorial Fund was established on 1 January 2002 to award a prize for outstanding mathematical work. The prize has a value of NOK 6 million (around EUR 725,000) and was awarded for the first time on 3 June 2003 to Jean-Pierre Serre from France. The Abel Prize is an international award for outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics, including the mathematical aspects of information technology, mathematical physics, probability theory, numerical analysis and computational science, statistics, and mathematical applications in other branches of science.

Anyone may nominate candidates for the Abel Prize. The nomination deadline is 15 November for the following year's prize.

The prize is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, which has appointed an Abel Committee consisting of five internationally recognized mathematicians to review the nominated candidates and submit a recommendation for a worthy Abel laureate.

The Abel Prize is presented by His Majesty King Harald at a ceremony in the Aula of the University of Oslo.

The Abel Prize is intended to raise the profile of mathematics in society, and to foster interest in the subject among children and young people. Since it was first awarded in 2003, the Abel Prize has achieved a high standing among the global mathematics community.

For further information on the Niels Henrik Abel Memorial Prize and nomination process, please see: www.abelprisen.no/en



Jean-Pierre Serre receiving the first Abel Prize from HM King Harald in June 2003.

The Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund awards the Holberg International Memorial Prize for outstanding scholarly achievement in the humanities, social science, law and theology.

The prize has a value of NOK 4.5 million (around EUR 575,000) and was awarded for the first time on 3 December 2004 to the Bulgarian-French professor Julia Kristeva. The aim of the prize is to raise the profile of these academic fields in society, and to foster interest in the subjects among children and young people.

The prize is awarded to scholars who have made an outstanding, internationally recognized contribution to research in the humanities, social science, law and theology, whether within any one of these fields or through interdisciplinary work. Laureates must, through their academic work, have had a decisive influence on international research in the field, for instance by developing new theories, knowledge or insights, by finding new applications for existing theories, or by their choice of methods.

Professors at universities and other research institutions in the aforementioned academic fields may nominate candidates for the Holberg International Memorial Prize. The annual nomination deadline is 15 February.

The Board of the Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund awards the Holberg International Memorial Prize on the recommendation of an expert committee made up of internationally recognized scholars in the relevant disciplines.

The Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund was established on 3 July 2003 by the Norwegian Parliament on the initiative of the Norwegian Government, and is administered by a Board appointed by the University of Bergen.

The Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund also awards the Nils Klim Prize for researchers from the Nordic countries aged under 35 and working in the aforementioned academic fields. The prize has a value of NOK 250,000 (around EUR 32,000).

By building relationships with senior high schools, the Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund aims to foster research experience, understanding, commitment and enthusiasm for the subjects, and to show that research is relevant and topical in today's society.

For further information on the Holberg International Memorial Prize and the nomination process, please see www.holbergprize.no.



Professor Jan Fridthjof Bernt (Chairman, Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund), Holberg laureate Julia Kristeva and HRH Crown Prince Haakon Magnus at the first Holberg Prize award ceremony in 2004.



**HOLBERG
PRISEN**



The Kavli Foundation

The Kavli Prizes. The Norwegian Government is also involved in the awarding of three other international research prizes.

In May 2005, a partnership agreement was signed between the Ministry of Education and Research, the Kavli Foundation and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters concerning the award of three new prizes for outstanding research in the fields of astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience.

Each of the three prizes will have a value of USD 1 million, funded by the Kavli Foundation. The prizes will be awarded for the first time in September 2008, at a ceremony in the Aula of the University of Oslo.

Norwegian physicist Fred Kavli, educated at the Norwegian Institute of Technology in Trondheim, emigrated in 1956 to the United States, where he built up a world-leading business specializing in sensors for the aerospace and automotive industries. Mr. Kavli divested his interest in the company (Kavlico Corporation) in 2000, since when he has devoted his time to the Kavli Foundation and Kavli Operating Institute, which provide extensive support for research in the fields of astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience. The three newly established research prizes are part of this process, and it is Fred Kavli's own wish that the prizes should be awarded in Norway.

Further information on the Kavli Prizes: www.kavlifoundation.org

*The Norwegian
physicist Fred Kavli*



Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, March 2006
www.kd.dep.no

F-4206E

Additional copies may be ordered from:

Departementenes servicesenter

Kopi- og distribusjonsservice

Fax: +47 22 24 27 86

e-mail: publikasjonsbestilling@dss.dep.no