



SUPA Press Release

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For immediate release

International prize for St Andrews associated physicist

A major prize for his world-leading work on the development of superconductors has been awarded to a leading scientist who has close links to the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance (SUPA).

Professor JC Seamus Davis of Cornell University, who also holds a position as a SUPA Distinguished Research Professor at St Andrews, has shared the 2009 Kamerlingh Onnes Prize for Superconductivity.

The Kamerlingh Onnes Prize, named after the original discoverer of superconductivity, is a major international prize awarded biennially at the Materials and Mechanisms of Superconductivity conference, which this year takes place in September in Tokyo, Japan.

Superconductivity is a phenomenon that occurs in some materials, generally at very low temperatures. It is characterised by exactly zero electrical resistance and the exclusion of the interior magnetic field. A superconductor carries electrical current without heating up and superconducting cables offer long-term promise to help with the world's energy crisis.

Professor Davis, a regular visitor to Scotland, is making profound contributions to understanding how modern superconductors work.

Professor Stephen Lee, Head of the School of Physics & Astronomy, commented:

“With physics becoming an international endeavour, we particularly value these formalised international collaborations. Professor Davis visits us regularly for scientific discussions, and hosts several St Andrews graduate students and research fellows to perform work in his laboratories in Cornell. We congratulate him warmly on this well-deserved recognition of his world-leading research.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Press pack

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