

Approved by the Board of Trustees
March 11, 2009

Board Meeting
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AWARD THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION
TO PAUL C. LAUTERBUR, IN MEMORIAM

The late Dr. Paul C. Lauterbur is recommended for the Trustees' Distinguished Service Medallion. The Trustees' Distinguished Service Medallion was created to recognize individuals whose contribution to the growth and development of the University of Illinois, through extraordinary service or benefaction, has been of unusual significance.

Professor Lauterbur joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in 1985. At the time of his death in March 2007, he was a Center for Advanced Study Professor of Chemistry, Biophysics and Computational Biology and Bioengineering, as well as the Distinguished University Professor of Medical Information Sciences. He was a pioneer in the development of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Professor Lauterbur received the 2003 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his pioneering work in MRI, a prize he shared with Sir Peter Mansfield of the University of Nottingham in England.

By developing the use of nuclear magnetic resonance to create images of organs, joints, and other tissues in the human body, Professor Lauterbur established the MRI as perhaps the most significant medical diagnostic discovery of the 20th century, a discovery which has led to the saving of millions of lives. MRIs are not only effective, but they are also painless and have minimal side effects.

Among his many other awards are the National Academy of Sciences Award for Chemistry in Service to Society in 2001; the Kyoto Prize from the Inamori Foundation of Japan in recognition of his lifelong research accomplishments in advanced technology in 1994; the Order of Lincoln Medallion, the State of Illinois' highest award in 1992; the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia's Bower Award for Achievement in Science in 1990; the National Medal of Technology in 1988; the National Medal of Science in 1987; and the Albert Lasker Clinical Research Award in 1984. He was a member of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, the National Academy of Sciences, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society.

Professor Lauterbur's life and work exemplify the ideals of the University of Illinois--creativity, passion, tenacity, and, most importantly, commitment to mankind. Every time an MRI saves a life, Professor Lauterbur's influence lives on. He is sorely missed. He will always be remembered as a great scientist, a loyal colleague, and an exemplary human being.

To Paul C. Lauterbur, an extraordinary member of the University of Illinois family, the members of the Board of Trustees take pride and express great joy in presenting the Trustees' Distinguished Service Medallion.