Honors & Awards

Paul R. Acosta, Computer Services Manager, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, received a 2017 Infinite Mile Award of the MIT School of Science.

Jan Bernauer, Research Scientist, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, received a 2017 Infinite Kilometer Award of the MIT School of Science.

Ibrahim I. Cissé, Class of 1922 Career Development Assistant Professor of Physics, received the Young Fluorescence Investigator Award from HORIBA Scientific; and was named a 2017 Pew Scholar in Biomedical Sciences.

Deepto Chakrabarty, Professor of Physics and Division Head, Astrophysics, was a recipient of the inaugural MITx Prize for Teaching and Learning in MOOCs for his work on the 8.01x Mechanics Series. The prize is jointly sponsored by the MIT Office of Digital Learning and MITx Faculty Advisory Committee.

William Detmold, Associate Professor of Physics, was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

Peter Dourmashkin, Senior Lecturer, was a recipient of the inaugural MITx Prize for Teaching and Learning in MOOCs for his work on the 8.01x Mechanics Series. The prize is jointly sponsored by the MIT Office of Digital Learning and MITx Faculty Advisory Committee.

Nikta Fakhri, Assistant Professor of Physics, was awarded a 2017 Sloan Research Fellowship.

Anna Frebel, Silverman (1968) Family Career Development Associate Professor of Physics, was featured in the article, “The Science News 10: Meet the scientists making the next big discoveries.”

Ivica Friscic, Postdoctoral Associate, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, received a 2017 Infinite Kilometer Award of the MIT School of Science.

Liang Fu was appointed the Lawrence C. (1944) and Sarah W. Biedenharn Career Development Associate Professor of Physics.

Scott A. Hughes, Professor of Physics, was named a 2017 MacVicar Fellow.
Wolfgang Ketterle, John D. MacArthur Professor of Physics, Director, MIT-Harvard Center for Ultracold Atoms, Associate Director, MIT Research Laboratory of Electronics, and 2001 Nobel Laureate, was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2016); and appointed a Fellow of the OSA.

Daniel Kleppner, Lester Wolfe Professor of Physics Emeritus, received the 2017 American Physical Society Medal for Exceptional Achievement in Research.

Nergis Mavalvala, Curtis and Kathleen Marble Professor of Astrophysics and Associate Department Head of Physics, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences (2017) and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2017).

Ernest J. Moniz, Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics and Engineering Systems Emeritus, was named CEO and Co-Chair of the Board of Nuclear Threat Initiative.

William Oliver, Professor of the Practice, Physics, was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society and a Fellow of MIT Lincoln Laboratory; and appointed Associate Director of the MIT Research Laboratory of Electronics.

Kerstin Perez, Assistant Professor of Physics, was awarded a 2017 Sloan Research Fellowship.

Krishna Rajagopal, William A.M. Burden Professor of Physics, was named a 2017 Outstanding UROP Faculty Mentor.

Saif Rayyan, was a recipient of the inaugural MITx Prize for Teaching and Learning in MOOCs for his work on the 8.01x Mechanics Series. The prize is jointly sponsored by the MIT Office of Digital Learning and MITx Faculty Advisory Committee.

Paul L. Schechter, William A.M. Burden Professor of Astrophysics Emeritus, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2017).

David H. Shoemaker, Director of the MIT LIGO Laboratory, was named spokesperson for the LIGO Scientific Collaboration.
Tracy Slatyer was named the Jerrold R. Zacharias Career Development Assistant Professor of Physics; awarded the APS 2017 Henry Primakoff Award for Early Career Particle Physics; received MIT’s 2017 Teaching with Digital Technology Award and 2017 Everett Moore Baker Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; and named the inaugural recipient of the School of Science’s Future of Science Award.

Jesse Thaler, Associate Professor of Physics, received the 2017 Frank E. Perkins Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising from the MIT Graduate Student Council.

Michelle Tomasik, Postdoctoral Associate, was a recipient of the inaugural MITx Prize for Teaching and Learning in MOOCs for her work on the 8.01x Mechanics Series. The prize is jointly sponsored by the MIT Office of Digital Learning and MITx Faculty Advisory Committee.

Gregory Walton, IS&T Service Provider and Consumer Support Engineer, received a 2017 MIT Excellence Award in the Serving the Client category.

Rainer Weiss, Professor of Physics Emeritus, was named a co-recipient of the 2017 Princess of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research.

Xiao-Gang Wen, Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics, was awarded the 2017 Oliver E. Buckley Condensed Matter Physics Prize of the American Physical Society.

Daniel Winklehner, Postdoctoral Associate, received a 2017 Infinite Kilometer Award of the MIT School of Science.

Lindley Winslow was appointed the Jerrold R. Zacharias Career Development Assistant Professor of Physics; and recognized by the American Physical Society as the September 2016 Woman Physicist of the Month.

Nina Wu, Development and Events Manager, received a 2017 Infinite Mile Award of the MIT School of Science.

Martin Zwierlein, Professor of Physics, was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS); and awarded the 2016 I. I. Rabi Prize in Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics of the APS.
Promotions

William Detmold to Associate Professor of Physics without tenure.

Anna Frebel to Associate Professor of Physics without tenure.

Liang Fu to Associate Professor of Physics with tenure.

Jeff Gore to Associate Professor of Physics with tenure.

Aram Harrow to Associate Professor of Physics without tenure.

Robert Simcoe to Full Professor of Physics.

Jesse Thaler to Associate Professor of Physics with tenure.
Paul L. Schechter [1988-2017]
William A.M. Burden Professor of Astrophysics Emeritus

Professor Paul Schechter is an observational astronomer who studies galaxies and clusters of galaxies and the distribution of dark matter therein. For the last several years, he has been carrying out ground-based optical and Hubble Space Telescope observations of the mirages produced by extragalactic gravitational potentials. Schechter played a major role in the development and implementation of the active optics system for the 6.5-m Magellan Telescopes, located on Cerro Las Campanas in Chile.

Paul Schechter received his undergraduate degree from Cornell in 1968 and his PhD from Caltech in 1975. Before coming to MIT in 1988, he held postdoctoral positions at the Institute for Advanced Study and the University of Arizona; a faculty position at Harvard; and staff positions at Kitt Peak National Observatory and the Carnegie Observatories.