



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winners of Bernd T. Matthias Prize Announced

Texas Center for Superconductivity Sponsors Awards for Advances in the Field

HOUSTON, June 11, 2015 – Three scientists have been named as recipients of the 2015 Bernd T. Matthias Prize for Superconducting Materials, an international prize awarded for innovative contributions to the field.

The winners are Xianhui Chen of the University of Science and Technology of China, Zachary Fisk of the University of California-Irvine and Zhongxian Zhao of the Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing.

The prize was created in 1989 by friends and colleagues of Bernd T. Matthias, a German-born physicist who immigrated to the United States in 1947 and is noted for his discovery of nearly 1,000 superconducting materials. The Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston (TcSUH) has sponsored the prize since 2000.

In addition to sharing the \$6,000 prize, each winner will receive a framed certificate designed by Elsevier Publishers. The prize will be formally presented during the 2015 M2S-HTSC international conference in Geneva, Switzerland, in August.

Chen was recognized for his discovery of $(\text{Li,Fe})\text{OHFe}(\text{Se,S})$, $\text{Yb}_x(\text{Me})_y\text{HfNCl}$ ($\text{Me} = \text{NH}_3$ and THF), and doped phenanthrene, broadening the material base for superconducting studies.

Fisk was honored for the discovery of UBe_{13} , UPt_3 , ThCoC_2 and LaRhSi_3 , for unraveling the roles of heavy fermions and non-centrosymmetry in superconductivity.

And Zhao was recognized for the discovery of $\text{RE}(\text{O,F})$ and $(\text{RE})\text{O}_{1-x}\text{FeAs}$ – RE stands for rare earth – with a Tc (transition temperature) up to 55 K, demonstrating the limit of Tc in bulk Fe-based superconductors.

All three, along with winners of the H. Kamerlingh Onnes Prize and the John Barden Prize, will make presentations after the ceremony. For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.m2s-2015.ch>

2015 Matthias Prize Committee members include Chairman Paul Ching-Wu Chu, T.L.L. Temple Chair of Science at UH and founding director of TcSUH; Ivan Bozovic, Brookhaven National Laboratory; Guy Deutscher, Tel Aviv University; Hideo Hosono, Tokyo Institute of Technology; Hai-Hu Wen, Nanjing University; and Susan Butler, associate director of TcSUH and Matthias Prize coordinator.

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best colleges for undergraduate education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation's fourth-largest city, UH serves more than 40,900 students in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region in the country.

Texas Center for Superconductivity at UH (TcSUH)

TcSUH is the largest multidisciplinary university-based superconductivity and advanced materials research center in the U.S., with more than 280 faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students. The Center's personnel create and develop high temperature superconducting and advanced materials, further their understanding, and develop commercial applications.

