

Professor awarded RWB Stephens Medal

Prof Tim Leighton

An outstanding scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of engineering acoustics has been awarded one of the Institute of Acoustics' top medals. Prof Tim Leighton has been awarded the RWB Stephens Medal for his outstanding work in the field of acoustical engineering.

He has been awarded the medal for his work in a number of different research fields, all of which have a strong acoustics component including sonochemistry, underwater acoustics, acoustics in space, animal bioacoustics, medical ultrasonics, acoustical oceanography and physical acoustics.

The medal will be presented at Fifth International Conference on Bio-Acoustics between 31 March and 2 April 2009, at Loughborough University.

A Fellow of the Institute of Acoustics, Prof Leighton, who already holds the AB Wood Medal and the Tyndall Medal of the IOA, has been awarded a number of prestigious prizes including the Paterson Medal of the Institute of Physics, the Medwin Prize of the Acoustical Society of America, and the Early Career Medal of the International Commission for Acoustics. He is currently Professor at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research (ISVR) at the University of Southampton.

On receiving news of the award Tim said that he was very honoured to receive the medal. He never had the good fortune to meet Prof Stephens, but he was well aware of his outstanding reputation and legacy through the Institute of Acoustics and through his thoughtful articles on teaching and research. He had been a model for those who

came to acoustics from a physics background, and had, like him, enjoyed the opportunity that acoustics gave to work in a wide range of topic areas. He felt privileged to encourage the next generation of researchers.

Tim Leighton is an acknowledged world leader in four fields for his rigorous and ground-breaking research relating to acoustics in liquids: biomedical ultrasonics, cavitation, acoustical oceanography and industrial ultrasonics. As well as all this, over the past ten years he has delivered many practical applications from acoustics research, taking the studies from fundamentals to deliverable instruments or datasets in the field, clinical, industry, ocean or laboratory. He has delivered more than 70 pioneering advances, from devices used in hospitals, to operating the world's first count of bubbles in the surf zone.

He is committed to training and care for PhD students, having set up the postgraduate monitoring and care systems for ISVR, which have since been used as the model for support systems elsewhere. He has founded a cross-school research centre and, though written 13 years ago, his book *The Acoustic Bubble* is still seen as the central text in the field.

The RWB Stephens Medal is awarded for outstanding contributions to acoustics research or education.



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