



John Wheeler at age 23  
as an NRC Fellow  
at the Niels Bohr Institute,  
Copenhagen (1934-35).

SCIENCE & ULTIMATE REALITY:  
*Celebrating the Vision of John Archibald Wheeler  
in a New Century of Discovery*

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Young Researchers Competition in Honor of John Archibald Wheeler**

FOR PHYSICS GRADUATE STUDENTS,  
POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS,  
& YOUNG FACULTY:

**\$10,000 First Prize  
Seven \$5,000 Second Prizes**

**Deadline for Application: January 31, 2002**

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**URGENT:** Please email this notice to appropriate colleagues, post it as an announcement via your institution's listserv, or put it up as a poster in your department's hallways.

#### **Description of Competition**

Fifteen young research scientists born on or after January 1, 1970 will be selected in an open competition worldwide to participate in the *Science & Ultimate Reality* symposium and book project celebrating the vision of John Archibald Wheeler (please see <[www.templeton.org/ultimate\\_reality](http://www.templeton.org/ultimate_reality)> for further information).

This entire project and competition are focused on the future of innovative research into the nature of "quantum reality" and related challenges and are inspired by Wheeler's "Really Big Questions" ("RBQs"):

Why the quantum?

How come existence?

It from bit?

A "participatory universe"?

What makes "meaning"?

The 15 finalists will present short research papers at the symposium to be held in Princeton, New Jersey, USA, from Friday evening, March 15 through Monday afternoon, March 18, 2002 (all expenses will be paid). The session for finalist presentations, which will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 17, 2002, will feature 15 talks in 12-minute slots (8 minutes plus 4 minutes Q&A). Space for display of posters also will be provided throughout the duration of the conference. Symposium attendees will include distinguished research physicists from around the world focusing on challenges for the coming decades in areas related to deep exploration of the nature and meaning of quantum reality.

## **Application, Screening, and Judging Process**

Selections for conference participation should be made by electronic application, due January 31, 2002, to <ycinfo@metanexus.net>. Each submission should consist of the following components: (1) an abstract of 500 words or less related to one or more of the four conference themes (see below); (2) tables, diagrams, and equations, as well as any necessary references, all to be encompassed in three additional pages or less; and (3) a biosketch of 500 words or less, including date of birth, and preferably with Web links to any professional publications or preprints that would assist those involved in the evaluation and selection process. All parts are to be sent electronically and may be in PDF (preferred), postscript, jpg, or plain-text format. (Note that the content of all presentations, in any format, will be saved and subsequently made available archivally.)

Based on the submitted documentation and links that are provided, a screening committee will narrow the field down to the 15 who will be invited to make presentations at the conference. Appointed judges, after evaluating the submitted evidence of research accomplishment and listening to the presentations, will award eight prizes, seven of \$5,000 each and a first-place prize of \$10,000, at the luncheon on Monday, March 18. The eight winners will be invited to submit chapters for possible inclusion in the post-conference book, a book that is expected to convey the spirit of John Wheeler's style of bold adventure into the quest for deep physical understanding of existence. (To reiterate, full expenses will be paid for all 15 presenters.)

## **Topical Areas and Judging Criteria**

Winners will be selected on the basis of outstanding merit. Candidates should not apply unless their work is innovative and substantively engaged with the ideas raised by Wheeler's questions related to quantum reality. Submissions should relate to one or more of the following program themes on which the symposium and book are based:

- I: Quantum Reality (Theory)
- II: Quantum Reality (Experiment)
- III: "Big Ideas" in Cosmology
- IV: Emergence, Life, & Related Topics

The judging criteria are:

1. Relevance to Wheeler's "RBQs" related to the deep nature of reality
2. Depth, innovativeness, and persuasiveness of the research
3. Record of accomplishment of the applicant

Please send applications and queries to <ycinfo@metanexus.net>.

The Organizing Committee thanks you on behalf of the Program Oversight and Program Development Committees.