

Joint Press Release

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ILCAC Awards McCartor Fund Fellowships

Washington, DC – The International Light-Cone Advisory Committee (ILCAC), incorporated under SURA sponsorship in the Commonwealth of Virginia in Spring 2008, continued its recently established McCartor Fund Fellowship program by awarding travel grants to three young scientists at its annual meeting, held in Valencia, Spain on June 14-18.

Thanks to a generous gift by Sheila McCartor, Gary McCartor's widow, and generous gifts by Gary's friends, three young physicists received grants from the Gary McCartor Fund:

- Cedric Lorce, who received his PhD from Ruhr-Universitat Bochum, Germany in 2007 under the supervision of Professor Maxim Polyakov;
- Usha Kulshreshtha, who received her PhD under the supervision of Professor H. J. W. Mueller-Kirsten at the University of Kaiserslautern and is currently an Assistant Professor of Physics at the Department of Physics and Astrophysics, University of Delhi, India; and,
- Asmita Mukherjee, who received her PhD under the supervision of Professor A. Harindranath from the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in Kolkata, India and is now affiliated with the India Institute of Technology in Mumbai. (Although Dr. Mukherjee's scholarship was granted last year, it was deferred to this year due to difficulty with her visa process last year.)

A \$2,000 travel grant enabled each scholarship recipient to attend LC 2010 in Valencia, Spain. All three scholarship awardees gave talks that were very well received by the participants of the well-attended meeting.

During the conference, Professor James Vary, chair of the fundraising committee and member of the Board of Directors of ILCAC reviewed the aims of the McCartor Fund Fellowship program in assisting promising young scientists in memory of a leading scientist in physics, Gary McCartor. Professor Vary commented, "Gary not only provided scientific leadership for our field but was very active in developing support for young scientists." Vary presented the fellowship awards to Cedric, Usha and Asmita along with mementos of the award from Sheila McCartor.

In particular, he participated in conceptualizing a fund to provide training and travel support enabling young scientists to develop their expertise and contribute to forefront physics research. This fund was founded after his death and is named for him to honor his achievements and leadership efforts.

This year's conference in Spain attracted nearly 80 participants including many young researchers who attended this annual meeting for the first time. Judging from the number of youthful attendees, and their excellent presentations, the competition for next year's McCartor Fund Fellowships will continue to be strong.

The photo below shows the Gary McCartor Award recipients, with officers of the International Light Cone Advisory Committee (L to R): Simon Dalley (newly elected ILCAC Treasurer), Usha Kulshreshtha (2010 Awardee), Tobias Frederico (ILCAC Secretary), Cedric Lorce (2010 Awardee), James Vary (ILCAC Board Member), Asmita Mukherjee (2009 Awardee), Ben Bakker (ILCAC Past Chair), Chueng Ji (newly elected ILCAC Chair). Wayne Polyzou, newly elected ILCAC Vice Chair, could not attend the evening event though he did participate in the meeting itself.



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