

Onsager Prize to Subir Sachdev



Professor Subir Sachdev of Harvard University, who is the occupant of a Dr. Homi J. Bhabha Chair Professorship at TIFR since July 2016, has been awarded the prestigious Lars Onsager Prize for 2018, *"for his seminal contributions to the theory of quantum phase transitions, quantum magnetism, and fractionalized spin liquids, and for his leadership in the physics community."*

Prof. Sachdev, whose early education was at Bengaluru and IIT Delhi, has a distinguished career, studded with many awards and honours. A graduate of MIT and a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Harvard University, he was on the faculty of Yale University for 18 years before joining Harvard University as a Professor in 2005. His research interests lie mainly in the field of statistical and condensed matter physics, especially phase transitions and their relation to quantum entanglement. He has been a pioneer in establishing links between the theory of phase transitions, and that of the quantum states of black holes, which were once thought to be completely different sub-areas of theoretical physics. His bold ideas and insights have been recognized by the award of several professorial chairs, including the Herchel Smith Professorship at Harvard, which he now holds, the Cenovus James Clerk Maxwell Chair in Theoretical Physics at the Perimeter Institute, and the Dr. Homi J. Bhabha Chair at TIFR. He was a recipient of the Dirac Medal of the Abdus Salam ICTP in 2015, and now of the Lars Onsager Award. He was elected a Fellow of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2014. Professor Sachdev has always been in close academic contact with TIFR and TIFR scientists, and he has visited TIFR several times.

The Lars Onsager Prize is named after Lars Onsager (1903 – 1976), a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry (1968) and a pioneer in the field of statistical mechanics. The Onsager Prize was endowed in 1993 by Drs. Russell and Marian Donnelly and is awarded by the American Physical Society annually from 1995 onward for outstanding contributions to statistical physics. Previous recipients include luminaries like M. E. Fisher, L. P. Kadanoff, C.N. Yang, J.M. Kosterlitz, D.J. Thouless, B. I. Halperin, J. Cardy, G. Baym, A.M. Polyakov and G. Parisi.