JSA Announces 2015 Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Recipients

WASHINGTON, DC – Jefferson Science Associates, LLC, announced the selection of Xiangdong Ji, University of Maryland/Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Anatoly Radyushkin, Old Dominion University/Jefferson Lab as joint recipients of the 2015 Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Award for their seminal roles in the development of Generalized Parton Distributions and the identification of associated experimental observables via Deeply Virtual Compton Scattering.

The award will be presented to Ji and Radyushkin during a ceremony to be held at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News, Virginia.

Jefferson Lab is a world-leading nuclear physics research laboratory managed and operated by Jefferson Science Associates for the U.S. Department of Energy.

SURA President & CEO Jerry Draayer and PAE Applied Technologies Chief Operating Officer Karl Williams, the owner representatives on the JSA Board of Directors, applauded the selection panel’s choice, noting that the leadership of Professors Ji and Radyushkin in the field of hadron theory has been recognized by their peers as evidenced in the strong recommendations both received with their nominations.

In a letter supporting the nomination, Stanford University/SLAC professor Stanley Brodsky said, “Professors Xiangdong Ji and Anatoly Radyushkin are remarkable theorists, whose innovations have made profound impact in hadron and nuclear physics. They rank among the most outstanding theorists in the world developing the fundamental theory of hadronic and nuclear physics, quantum chromodynamics.”

JSA President and Jefferson Lab Director Hugh Montgomery welcomed the news with this statement: “This award to Xiangdong Ji and Anatoly Radyushkin recognizes two outstanding nuclear theorists. Their pioneering work on Generalized Parton Distributions has had, and will continue to have, a profound impact on the experimental exploration of nucleon structure - a subject that is at the heart of modern nuclear physics. We particularly look forward to the powerful studies of GPD’s and the associated insights into nucleon structure that will be enabled by the 12 GeV upgrade of CEBAF at Jefferson Lab.”

Xiangdong Ji is professor of theoretical physics at the University of Maryland and also serves as the Director, Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, where he leads the PandaX experiment. Ji held post doctoral positions at CalTech and MIT and was on the MIT faculty before joining the University of Maryland, College Park in 1996. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society. Ji’s previous awards include: 2014 Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Research Award; 2010 National 1000-Talent Expert, China; and, 2003 recipient of the Outstanding Overseas Young Chinese Scientist award from the National Science Foundation of China. Ji was a ChangJiang chair visiting professor of theoretical physics at Peking University 2005-2010.
Anatoly Radyushkin is professor of physics at Old Dominion University and senior staff scientist at the Jefferson Lab. Prior to joining the Lab and ODU in 1992, Radyushkin was a scientist at the Laboratory of Theoretical Physics, Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russian Federation, since 1978. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society. In addition to the JINR-Dubna Award in Theoretical Physics in 1979, 2003, and 2010, and several awards from Old Dominion University, Radyushkin was named the Virginia Outstanding Scientist of the Year in 2004 and was the recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Research Award in 2001.

The JSA Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Award, established in 2011 and awarded biennially, recognizes an individual who has made outstanding and sustained contributions in experimental and/or theoretical research related to the nuclear physics program at the Jefferson Lab. The award is funded through the JSA Initiatives Fund Program and managed by the JSA Programs Committee. The award will be presented at Jefferson Lab at the annual Users Group meeting in June. The Users Group is comprised of those scientists from the U.S. and abroad who use Jefferson Lab’s facilities to conduct experiments.

The panel charged with making the selection for this year’s award was chaired by Robert McKeown, deputy director for Science and Technology, Jefferson Lab; and included Douglas Beck, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2013 Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Honoree; John Hardy, Texas A&M University, JSA Programs Committee member; James Symons, Lawrence Berkeley Lab, JSA Science Council member; and supported by Elizabeth Lawson, SURA Chief Governance Officer/Principal JSA/JLab Liaison.

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About the JSA Initiatives Fund. JSA established the JSA Initiatives Fund to support programs, initiatives, and activities that further the scientific outreach, and promote the science, education and technology missions of Jefferson Lab in ways that complement its basic and applied research focus. Initiatives Fund awards are for those projects that benefit the Lab user community and that leverage commitments of others. The annual commitment is managed by SURA for the JSA Programs Committee. For more information, visit http://www.jsallc.org/index.html.