



ICTP celebrates one of its most successful programmes

Three days of hybrid celebrations for the Centre's Diploma Programme 30th anniversary happening next week, including a keynote by 2020 Nobel Laureate in Physics Andrea Ghez

Thirty years of high-level physics and mathematics instruction, and more than 1000 graduates from 80 countries: the success of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics' (ICTP) Postgraduate Diploma Programme will be front and centre at a three-day online event to mark its 30th anniversary.

The event, which will take place from 23 to 25 August 2021, will celebrate one of ICTP's most cherished programmes, and will offer a chance for Diploma alumni to share their memories and make new connections.

Hundreds of alumni will be connected from all over the world to acknowledge the success of the programme, to reconnect with former classmates and with other Diploma scholars in the same field of research, and to celebrate science and the power of ICTP networking opportunities.

Highlights of the event will include a keynote speech by 2020 Nobel Laureate in Physics Andrea Ghez, one of the world's leading experts in observational astrophysics, who will talk about her work in the Physics and Astrophysics of Black Holes, and will also address the 2020-2021 class of Diploma Programme students graduating on the same day. Other highlights include a talk on diversity in science by the president of the American Physical Society Sylvester James Gates, Jr, talks by prominent Diploma alumni, including Mabouba Diagne, a Diploma mathematics graduate who is now vice-president of finance and corporate services at the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development, and parallel sessions in various regions of the world to foster the creation of networks.

Andrea Ghez is a professor of physics and astronomy and the Lauren B. Leichtman & Arthur E. Levine chair in Astrophysics at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). She became the fourth woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, sharing one half of the prize with Reinhard Genzel (the other half of the prize being awarded to Sir Roger Penrose). Ghez and Genzel received the Nobel "for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy", now generally recognized to be a black hole, in the Milky Way's galactic center.

More details about the event are available on ICTP's website at <https://diploma30th.ictp.it/>.

ICTP's Postgraduate Diploma Programme is designed to assist students from least advantaged countries who come from various educational backgrounds and are interested in further, advanced study in physics or mathematics. The programme offers five areas of instruction: high energy physics, condensed matter physics, mathematics, Earth system physics, and quantitative life sciences.

More than 1000 students have graduated from the Postgraduate Diploma Programme since it began in 1991. Of these students, more than a quarter are female. Hundreds of Diploma graduates have gone on to earn PhDs from international universities, mainly in Europe and in the United States, and then have returned to their home countries to put their acquired skills to good use, by becoming teachers or researchers, and thus supporting ICTP's mission to promote advanced scientific research for all.

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