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BRAIN-GAIN FOR WALES

Professor Sam Braunstein of the University of Wales, Bangor is the only Wales based scientist named among 13 top scientists to be awarded Royal Society- Wolfson Research Merit Awards, a scheme designed to attract or retain top scientists within the UK, today (6.12.01).

Professor Braunstein a leading scientist in the field of quantum computing, who took part in the world's first verified quantum teleportation experiment in 1998 has been awarded this major award, the aim of which is to allow universities to attract the best researchers from abroad and retain them in the United Kingdom.

Professor Braunstein, who has been at the School of Informatics since 1997, received his PhD in Physics from the California Institute of Technology. Before joining the University of Wales, he was awarded the prestigious German Humboldt Fellowship (spent at the University of Ulm). Professor Braunstein was this year's Lord Kelvin Lecturer. He presented the Lecture at the BA Festival of Science which took place in Glasgow during the summer. Prof Braunstein teaches artificial intelligence and communication theory on the School's Degree courses. His research is in the foundations of quantum mechanics with aims towards building new quantum technologies, like quantum computers. It is for his contribution in this area that he has been chosen for the Award.

Professor Roy Evans greeted the news and said, "I am delighted that Professor Braunstein's exciting and important work has been recognised in the Awarding of such a prestigious Award. This is another endorsement of the quality of research that is taking place at Bangor. We are contributing ground -breaking research in a number of fields and have internationally recognised researchers among our staff."

On behalf of the Trustees of the Wolfson Foundation, Lord Wolfson of Marylebone said "how pleased they are to be associated with this imaginative development to attract and retain talent in this country, particularly in the fields of science and technology and to be part of a collaboration with the Royal Society and Government."

Lord May of Oxford, President of the Royal Society, said, "These 13 award winners are world-class researchers who are pushing back the frontiers of their disciplines. By choosing to carry on their work in the UK, they are demonstrating that our universities now provide facilities and career prospects that rival those offered by institutions in other leading scientific nations, including the United States.

"If we can continue to attract scientists of the highest calibre to pursue their research in this country, then the UK will ensure that it remains at the top of the international premier league of science. World-class science makes a vital difference both to our economic competitiveness and the quality of life that we enjoy in this country."

Science and Innovation Minister Lord Sainsbury said: "We want the world's top scientists to work in the UK. This partnership between the Office of Science and Technology and the Wolfson Foundation will help ensure that we attract the best international scientists to the UK,

and keep and nurture those with outstanding potential. This scheme is designed to promote UK Brain Gain. We want major advances in science, which can build prosperity and improve quality of life, to take place in the UK."

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Further Notes:

1. Professor Braunstein is editor of two books "Quantum Computing" and "Scalable Quantum Computing" and serves on the editorial board of the journal Fortschritte der Physik for which he has prepared two special issues on quantum computation.
2. He has initiated and is a Founding Managing Editor of Quantum Information and Computation -- the first journal dedicated specifically to this field. Its first issue appeared in July 2001.
3. He has 60 papers published in refereed journals, which have been cited over 1400 times, including 15 papers in Physical Review Letters, 3 in Nature and 1 in Science. This work has received extensive coverage in prestigious scientific venues such as Science, Nature, Physics Today, New Scientist and Optics & Photonics News, as well as on radio, television and daily newspapers (The Independent, The Times, The New York Times and more).
4. These awards are jointly funded by the Wolfson Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology and administered by the Royal Society. Initial funding available for the awards totals some £20 million over five years. Seven outstanding scientists were selected in the first round of this Award last July and it is anticipated that a further 20 awards will be made this year and around 40 next year when the scheme will be reviewed.

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