

“Telesio-Galilei Academy Laureate Dr Michael Duffy honoris causa award.”

In honouring Dr. Michael Duffy by making him a Telesio-Galileo Laureate, the Academy is following one of its original aims of helping to promote non-mainstream science, while noting, appreciating and helping the mainstream. Michael Duffy is possibly best known as the organiser of the eminently successful conferences on the Physical Interpretations of Relativity Theory (PIRT). Beginning in 1988, these were originally held in London but are now held in Moscow, Calcutta and Budapest as well. These conferences really did, and do, allow scientists to present talks which contain unfashionable material in a civilised atmosphere which ensures the presenter receiving a fair hearing. For this, Michael Duffy must take most, if not all, of the credit.

He himself has also made several useful and important contributions to our scientific understanding. Possibly the most important contribution is the set of three volumes, edited by him and Joseph Levy, entitled ‘Ether space-time and cosmology’. These three volumes contain a series of articles designed to keep the scientific community completely up to date on the resurgence of the notion of an ether in modern science. It is true to say that, although it may be given a different name today, - the usual one being the vacuum - the ether still has an important place in our thinking. Hence, once again, the vision and courage of Michael Duffy serve science well.

For all this, Michael Duffy is a worthy recipient of this award and we at Telesio-Galilei wish him well in his ongoing fight against motor-neurone disease.