

Joint Press Release

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ILCAC Awards McCartor Fund Fellowships

Washington, DC – The International Light-Cone Advisory Committee (ILCAC), incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in Spring 2008 under SURA sponsorship, continued its recently established McCartor Fund Fellowship program by awarding travel grants to three young scientists at its annual scientific meeting – “LIGHTCONE 2011” – in Dallas, Texas from May 23-27.

Thanks to a generous gift by Sheila McCartor, Gary McCartor’s widow, and generous gifts by Gary’s friends, three young physicists received grants from the Gary McCartor Fund:

- Natalia Tsirova, who received her PhD from Samara University, Federation of Russia, in 2008 under the supervision of Professor Krutov;
- Fabrizio Caola, who will soon receive his PhD in theoretical particle physics from University of Milan in July 2011 under supervision of Prof. Stefano Forte; and,
- Hikmat BC, who received his PhD under the supervision of Professor Matthias Burkardt from New Mexico State University and is now affiliated with University of Texas at El Paso.

A total of \$4,500 in travel grants this year enabled all of the scholarship recipients to attend LIGHTCONE 2011 at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. All three scholarship awardees gave their research presentations that were very well received by the participants of the meeting.

During the conference, Professor James Vary, chair of the fundraising committee and member of the Board of Directors of ILCAC, reviewed the aims of the McCartor Fund Fellowship program in assisting promising young scientists in memory of a leading scientist in physics, Gary McCartor. Vary commented, “Gary not only provided scientific leadership for our field but was very active in developing support for young scientists. In particular, he participated in conceptualizing a fund to provide training and travel support enabling young scientists to develop their expertise and contribute to forefront physics research.” The fund was founded after McCartor’s death and is named for him to honor his achievements and leadership.

Sheila McCartor then presented the fellowship awards to Natalia, Fabrizio and Hikmat along with mementos of the award.

This year’s conference in Dallas attracted more than 50 participants including many young researchers who attended this annual meeting for the first time. Judging from the number of young attendees, and their excellent presentations, event planners expect the competition for next year’s McCartor Fund Fellowships will be as strong as ever.

The travel grant enabled each scholarship recipient to attend LIGHTCONE 2011 in Dallas. All three scholarship awardees gave talks that were very well received by the participants of the well-attended meeting.

The attached photo shows the Gary McCartor Award recipients with Sheila McCartor (shown left to right are Hikmat BC, McCartor, Natalia Tsirova and Fabrizio Caola).

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