Report of the Committee to select the candidate for the Tate Medal

September 2005

We propose Errio Tosatti, Professor of Physics at the International School of Advanced Studies (SISSA) for the award of the AIP Tate Medal for International Leadership in Physics.

Tosatti is a leading condensed matter physicist. He has published around 400 scientific papers, and edited ten books. He has received the Elias Burstein lecture Award from the University of Pennsylvania and the Francesco Somayani Physics Prize. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and has held positions in scientific committees of renowned institutions such as the Max-Planck Institut fuer Festkoerperforschung, Stuttgart (1998-2001), the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (1998), the Max Planck Institut fuer Komplexe Systeme, Dresden (1995 - ), and the Fritz-Haber Institut of the Max Planck Society (1995 - ).

Errio Tosatti has been very active and effective in promoting physics among physicists from the developing countries at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste and helping them to realize their potential. Errio has been a long-time member of the Condensed Matter Group of the ICTP. He has organized more than 20 events (conferences, workshops, summer schools), ranging from the physics of high-Tc superconductivity to surface physics to computational condensed matter. He occupied the position of Acting Director (2002-03). Despite of his very short time in this office, his profound understanding of the needs of physicists in developing countries, he made the Centre flourish.

Errio was never given to big splashing plans, but his persistent work with care and concern for the physicists in developing countries has probably left much deeper marks in many countries than many of the programs that make the headlines. He was always accessible and willing to spend long hours discussing physics. He probably knows most about the physicist from the developing countries who ever visited the Centre. Everybody who has worked near him has appreciated his physics, and his concern for physicists in need of guidance. He has directed the thesis work of many students from developing countries.

Hilda Cerdeira
Brian Fraser
Frans Frauenfelder
Narendra Kumar