



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS  
UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE

## NEWS RELEASE

5 February 2015

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### IUGG GOLD MEDAL

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The IUGG Gold Medal is bestowed on Sir **Brian J. Hoskins** (the Imperial College of London and the University of Reading, UK) for “*his scientific contributions that have been pioneering and profound in almost all aspects of the atmospheric and climatological sciences, with strong linkages to IUGG and its Associations*”, in the words of the jury’s citation. “Professor Hoskins has over a period of four and half decades pioneered and been at the forefront of almost every major development in atmospheric dynamics. These developments have opened up strikingly elegant new vistas, and purposeful and practical techniques and approaches, for this increasingly important and significant sub-discipline of the Earth Sciences”, Huw Davies (ETH, Zurich, Switzerland) tells about his colleague.

Athena Coustenis (Observatoire de Paris, France), President of the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS), refers to Hoskins as a person who “served for geophysics on a global scale” and has been contributing for years to IAMAS and IUGG as well as to the World Climate Research Program and the World Meteorological Organization projects and initiatives. Guoxiong Wu (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China) shares his thoughts: “I was fortunate enough to get to know Brian Hoskins when I was doing my PhD in the United Kingdom more than 30 years ago. He is always enthusiastic in contributing to international scientific cooperation”. “Another important characteristic of Professor Hoskins is his eagerness to share his knowledge and advice with his colleagues, and his ability to convey enthusiastically the excitement and love of his science to his colleagues, and especially to young scientists” as Robert A. Duce (Texas A&M University, USA) mentions.

Joanna Haigh (Imperial College of London, UK), a colleague of Professor Hopkins, tells: “Sir Brian is recognised as one of the world’s leading weather and climate scientists. He has made deep and fundamental contributions to scientific understanding of the weather, climate and climate change. He has developed mathematical theory to explain and describe the dynamics of weather systems, how they build into a climate and how they might change under a changing climate. He showed how theory can be used in practical forecasting ... Sir Brian has also been an effective ambassador for its use in Government, industry and society. He has contributed unstintingly to developing environmental science in the UK and internationally. Under his leadership his group at the University of Reading has expanded to become one of the largest and most successful Meteorology departments in the world. Similarly over recent

years Sir Brian has been instrumental in establishing the Grantham Institute for Climate Change at Imperial, as a world renowned centre for climate change research”.

Sir Brian John Hoskins, a Fellow of Royal Society, was born in 1945. He gained a B.A. (1st Class Honours) and Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Cambridge in 1966 and 1970, respectively. He spent post-doc years in the USA before moving to the University of Reading where he became Reader in atmospheric modelling (1976–1981), Professor of meteorology (since 1981), and later served as Head of the Department of Meteorology (1990–1996). From 2000 to 2010 Brian Hoskins held a Royal Society Research Professorship.

Brian Hoskins has made fundamental theoretical and practical contributions that have shaped meteorological science. His research in meteorological science is of a breadth and depth that is unparalleled worldwide in the modern era. He has fostered the development of the interdisciplinary sciences needed to predict weather and climate. For these reasons Sir Brian has received the highest honours, including being made Commander of the British Empire in 1998 and receiving a knighthood for services to environmental sciences in 2007.

His international roles have included being IAMAS President, Member of the IUGG Executive Committee, Vice-chair of the Joint Scientific Committee for the World Climate Research Programme, and involvement in the 2007 IPCC international climate change assessment. Brian Hoskins has the privilege and distinction of having been made a Member of the USA National Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Academia Europaea. He received a number of awards including the top prizes of the UK and US Meteorological Societies and honorary DScs from the Universities of Bristol and East Anglia.

*The Gold Medal will be presented to Sir Brian J. Hoskins by the IUGG President at the Opening Ceremony of the XXVI IUGG General Assembly on 23 June 2015 in Prague, Czech Republic. The Medalist will receive also a certificate of IUGG Honorary Membership, and a Fellow pin.*

## **International jury**

The IUGG Gold Medal Committee was chaired by E. R. Engdahl (University of Colorado, Boulder, USA). Members of the Committee were C. Brunini (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina), L. Gallardo Klenner (University of Chile, Santiago, Chile), A. Ismail-Zadeh, ex-officio (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany), D. Koutsoyiannis (National Technical University, Athen, Greece), Joan Marti (CSIC Institute of Earth Sciences "Jaume Almera", Barcelona, Spain), L. Mysak (McGill University, Montreal, Canada), O. Solomina (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia), and M. Yamamoto (Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan).

**Please join us in congratulating Professor Brian J. Hoskins!**

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