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# Michael Atiyah

Dr. Michael Atiyah received his Ph.D. in 1955 from Trinity College, Cambridge under the supervision of William Hodge. He was awarded a Commonwealth Fellowship to study at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton during session 1955–1956. Returning to Cambridge, he was a college lecturer from 1957 and a Fellow of Pembroke College from 1958. He remained at Cambridge until 1961 when he moved to a readership at the University of Oxford where he became a Fellow of St Catherine's College. Atiyah was soon to fill the highly prestigious Savilian Chair of Geometry at Oxford from 1963, holding this chair until 1969 when he was appointed professor of mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. After three years in Princeton, Atiyah returned to England, becoming a Royal Society Research Professor at Oxford. Atiyah is a distinguished mathematician specializes in geometry and topology.

Atiyah was awarded the Fields Medal in 1966 and the Abel Prize in 2004. Among other prizes he has received are the Royal Medal of the Royal Society in 1968, the King Faisal International Prize for Science in 1987, the Benjamin Franklin Medal for Distinguished Achievement in the Sciences of the American Philosophical Society in 1993, the President's Medal from the Institute of Physics in 2008 and etc. He has been elected a foreign member of many national academies including: the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1969), Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (1972), United States National Academy of Sciences (1978), Russian Academy of Sciences (1994), American Philosophical Society (1998) and Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (2009). He was President of the London Mathematical Society (1974–1976), President of the Royal Society (1990–1995), Master of Trinity College, Cambridge (1990–1997),

President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs (1997–2002), Chancellor of the University of Leicester (1995–2005) and President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (2005–2008). He was involved in the creation of the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge and was its first director (1990–1996). He was an honorary professor in the University of Edinburgh.

## Professor S.-T. Yau at 70

I have known Yau since he was a young man, already showing his power as a mathematician of the highest calibre. In addition he was dynamic and clearly had great potential to influence the whole area of geometric analysis. In this he was continuing the pioneering work of S. S. Chern, where non-linear differential equations emerged from natural geometric problems.

His first great triumph was in his use of the Monge-Ampère equations to solve the famous Calabi conjecture. This opened the door to many related problems and was also the beginning of Yau's deep involvement with theoretical physics.

Yau's influence was extensive, through his many talented students and collaborators in many countries, including the USA, Hong Kong and mainland China.

In addition he used his contacts to found and support institutions that taught, trained and employed mathematical scientists for the many tasks that modern society requires.

On his 70th birthday, I wish to join in the celebration of his achievements, and hope that he continues in good health for many years to come.