



# ABEL PRISEN

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has decided to award the Abel Prize for 2011 to

## John Willard Milnor

Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Stony Brook University, New York

**“for pioneering discoveries in topology, geometry and algebra”.**

The President of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Øyvind Østerud, announced the winner of this year's Abel Prize at the Academy in Oslo today, 23 March. John Willard Milnor will receive the Abel Prize from His Majesty King Harald at an award ceremony in Oslo on 24 May. The Abel Prize recognizes contributions of extraordinary depth and influence to the mathematical sciences and has been awarded annually since 2003. It carries a cash award of NOK 6,000,000 (close to EUR 750,000 or USD 1 mill.)

John Milnor's profound ideas and fundamental discoveries have largely shaped the mathematical landscape of the second half of the 20th century. All of Milnor's work display features of great research: profound insights, vivid imagination, striking surprises and supreme beauty. He receives the 2011 Abel Prize “for pioneering discoveries in topology, geometry and algebra,” to quote the Abel committee.

In the course of 60 years, John Milnor has made a deep mark on modern mathematics. Numerous mathematical concepts, results and conjectures are named after him. In the literature we find Milnor exotic spheres, Milnor fibration, Milnor number and many more.

Yet the significance of Milnor's work goes far beyond his own spectacular results. He has also written tremendously influential books, which are widely considered to be models of fine mathematical writing.

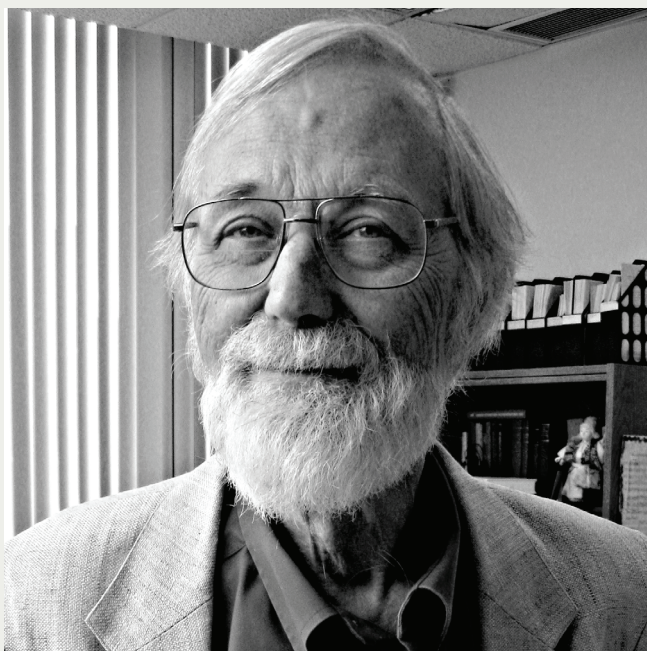
**Awards and honours:** John Milnor has received many awards and honours. He received the Fields Medal in 1962 for his work in differential topology when he was only 31. Recently he was awarded the 2011 Leroy P. Steele Prize for Lifetime Achievement by the American Mathematical Society. Milnor has previously won two other Steele Prizes from the AMS: for Mathematical Exposition (2004) and for Seminal Contribution to Research (1982). In 1989 Milnor received the Wolf Prize in Mathematics.

John Milnor received the US National Medal of Science in 1967. He was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1963. Since 1994, he has been a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and in 2004 he became a member of the European Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

**The Abel Prize:** The Niels Henrik Abel Memorial Fund was established in 2002 to award the Abel Prize for outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics. The Abel Prize was awarded for the first time in 2003.

The prize is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. The choice of Abel Laureate is based on the recommendation of the Abel Committee, which consists of five internationally recognized mathematicians.

For more information about the laureate, his achievements and the Abel Prize, visit the Abel Prize website [www.abelprisen.no/en/](http://www.abelprisen.no/en/)



John Willard Milnor is a Distinguished Professor and Co-director of the Institute for Mathematical Sciences at Stony Brook University in New York. Photo: Marco Martens