

AINSE Honorary Fellow 2009

Professor John White Citation



Professor White receives his Certificate
from AINSE President, Professor Allan Chivas

AINSE Honorary Fellowships are awarded by the AINSE Council to individuals for distinguished and dedicated services to AINSE.

Professor John White, CMG MSc Sydney MA DPhil Oxford, FRSC, FRACI, FAPS, FAA, FRS, is an outstanding Australian scientist and has given years of service to AINSE. He is an ideal recipient of an AINSE Honorary Fellowship.

John graduated from the University of Sydney with a BSc (Hons) and received his MA and DPhil at Oxford University. He has since held positions at Institut Laue Langevin, Grenoble (1975-1980) and Oxford University (1963-1985) before being appointed Professor at the Research School of Chemistry, his present position.

John's current research is in thin films and emulsions, using neutron scattering and other techniques to elucidate basic science of these systems. In particular he has recently made neutron scattering measurements of oil-water emulsions as well as of TiO₂ films for solar energy application. This research has ranged from basic research to applications in collaboration with companies such as Orica. This research has been recognised in Australia and internationally. John has been awarded fellowships by the Royal Society of Chemistry (1982), the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (1986), the Australian Institute of Physics (1986), the Royal Society of London (1993) and the Australian Academy of Sciences (1991). He has received the H. G. Smith Medal (1997), the Craig Medal (2005) and the Leighton Medal (2005).

John's outstanding contribution to AINSE has come through two avenues – administration and science. John has made a significant contribution to AINSE administratively by representing ANU on the council for 13 years from 1998-1991 and 2000-2008. During that time he has served 2 years as vice president, 2 years as president and 1 year as immediate past president. As a Council and Executive Committee member he has demonstrated outstanding leadership. For example, he was instrumental in the re-establishment of the Research Fellowship Scheme, he led the preparation of the LIEF applications for access to ISIS for many years and he initiated the benchmarking process - which has led to a significant improvement in the data kept by the secretariat. Moreover, his intimate knowledge of Australian science policy through his membership of the Australian Academy of Science, and his international links to facilities such as the Australian Synchrotron, ISIS, ILL and J-PARC has been a continual benefit to AINSE as has his wise counsel to the AINSE Executive and Council in his role as past president. John's work for AINSE continues to this day as he takes over the chair of Research Fellowships Selection Committee from 2009.

Second, he has also given AINSE the benefit of his scientific expertise: on the Neutron Scattering and later MSD Specialist Committee for many years. His group has also fostered neutron science in Australia. For example, many scientists active in AINSE and ANSTO (Duncan McGillivray, Adam Perriman, Elliot Gilbert, and Jeremy Ruggles to name but a few) have also come from John's group at the Australian National University.

