

From Solid State to Biophysics:

Pierre-Gilles de Gennes Prize

Pierre-Gilles de Gennes made the first part of career in Solid State Physics, with seminal contributions to superconductivity, liquid crystals, and polymers (for which he eventually won the Nobel Prize in 1991) *before* shifting his interest to biophysics and neuroscience (the nature of memory objects in the brain).

This prize intends to encourage young scientists to follow in his steps. The ideal candidate should have earned a PhD in Solid State Physics no more than 10 years prior to nomination and shifted subsequently to pursue research in Biophysics, demonstrating exceptional promise and leadership potential.

The prize recognizes and encourages outstanding theoretical or experimental contributions to condensed matter physics. It consists of CHF1'000.- and a certificate, citing the most relevant contributions made by the recipient. It is awarded biannually at the regular conference 'From Solid State to Biophysics'.



Conference co-chairs with Pierre-Gilles de Gennes in Cavtat, June 2006.

The 2010 prize is shared by **Ioan Kosztin** (University of Missouri, Columbia, USA) and **Todd Squires** (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA).