



PRESS RELEASE  
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## Brazilian Mathematician to Receive Prestigious Math Prize

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) will present its annual Ramanujan Prize for young mathematicians from developing countries at an awards ceremony to be held at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in Oslo on 20 May.

Enrique R. Pujals, associate researcher at the Instituto Nacional de Matemática Pura e Aplicada (IMPA), Brazil, has been awarded the 2008 Srinivasa Ramanujan Prize in recognition of “his outstanding contributions to dynamical systems, especially the characterization of robust dynamics for flows and transformations and the development of a theory of generic systems.”

The study of dynamical systems has its origins in mechanics, which predicts the motions of particles and bodies subject to Newton's laws of motion. These relatively simple laws can produce very complicated trajectories. Quantitative predictions are therefore rarely possible. Very interesting qualitative phenomena emerge, however—“chaos” among them—and the mathematical study of these phenomena remains a topic of intense interest to mathematicians.

Professor Pujals received a Ph.D. in 1996 from IMPA. His past achievements include a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2000 as well as the Award of the Mathematical Union of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2004.

The Ramanujan Prize reflects ICTP's mandate to strengthen science in developing countries and is the only international prize honouring young mathematicians from those regions. The prize winner is selected by ICTP through a committee of five eminent mathematicians appointed in conjunction with the International Mathematical Union (IMU).

The prize, which carries a US\$15,000 cash award, is funded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters through the Niels Henrik Abel Memorial Fund, with the cooperation of IMU. The Abel Fund is the same organization that sponsors the Abel Prize for Mathematics, an internationally renowned award for lifetime achievement.

The Ramanujan Prize award ceremony will be held during festivities honouring this year's Abel Prize winner at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Journalists are welcome to attend the ceremony and should contact Mary Ann Williams, ICTP Public Information Officer, or Anne-Marie Astad, the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters Information Officer, using the contact details listed below. The ceremony begins at 19:00.

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**NOTE: Journalists are also invited to a reception hosted by Brazilian Ambassador Sergio Eduardo Moreira Lima in honour of the Ramanujan Prize recipient.** This will be held at the Ambassador's residence at Drammensveien 80D, Oslo, starting at 16:00 on 20 May. The reception offers a chance for journalists to speak with individuals at the forefront of science education in developing countries, Norwegian policymakers (names still to be confirmed), as well as representatives from the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Niels Henrik Abel Memorial Fund. ICTP's Director, Katepalli R. Sreenivasan, will give a short briefing on the Centre's wide collaboration with and range of activities in Brazil and Latin America. RSVP via the press contacts listed below.

For more details about the Ramanujan Prize, please visit the ICTP website at <http://prizes.ictp.it/Ramanujan>.

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Based in Trieste, Italy, the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics fosters advanced studies and research in physics and mathematics, especially in developing countries. The Centre operates under a tripartite agreement between the Italian Government, UNESCO and IAEA. Each year about 7000 scientists from around the world visit ICTP for workshops, training and research. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.ictp.it>.

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