

Two Physics Faculty Honored by Texas A&M Sigma Xi Chapter

COLLEGE STATION -- Texas A&M University physicists Dr. Olga Kocharovskaya and Dr. David Toback have been recognized by the Texas A&M chapter of *Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society*, as the 2012 recipients of the chapter's primary annual awards celebrating scientific excellence and advancement.

Kocharovskaya, a distinguished professor of physics, has earned the *Sigma Xi* Distinguished Scientist Award. The award is bestowed annually in recognition of respective faculty members who have demonstrated research and teaching excellence and significant contributions to their profession and general science (Distinguished Scientist Award).

Kocharovskaya, who is recognized as one of the top quantum optics and laser physics researchers worldwide, joined the Texas A&M faculty in 1998 after 12 years at the Institute of Applied Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. A member of the Texas A&M Institute for Quantum Science and Engineering (IQSE), she was appointed as a distinguished professor in 2007 and has made major contributions to the rapidly developing field of atomic coherence phenomena, including pioneering works on lasing without inversion and electromagnetically induced transparency. Her current research is focused on coherent control of the optical electronic and gamma-ray nuclear transitions in solids. A fellow of both the American Physical Society and Optical Society of America, Kocharovskaya has earned the Willis Lamb Medal for Laser Physics and Quantum Electronics, the Presidential Award of the Russian Academy of Sciences as the Outstanding Young Professor of the Russian Federation and a Texas A&M Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Research.



Sigma Xi is an international, multidisciplinary research society honoring scientists whose work promotes scientific enterprise and rewarding excellence in scientific research. Founded in 1886 at Cornell University, *Sigma Xi* has grown to include 500 chapters across North America and around the world at colleges and universities. To date, there are about 70,000 active members, more than 200 of which are Nobel Prize winners.

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Michelle Sullens, (979) 458-4066 or SigmaXi@tam.u.edu
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2012-05-04 00:00:00