

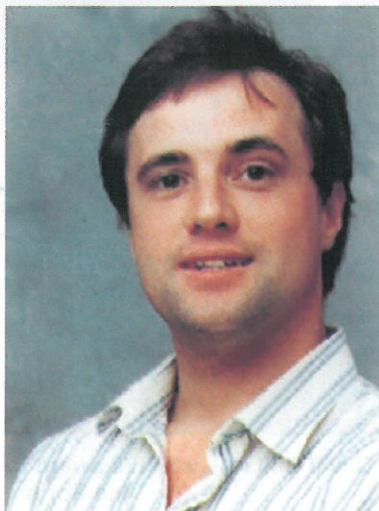
## • Timothy Leighton FIOA is awarded the Medwin Prize 2001

During autumn 2000 the **Acoustical Society of America** announced a new prize in *Acoustical Oceanography*. A fund had been set up by Hank Medwin and his wife, which would be known as the *Medwin Prize for Acoustical Oceanography*.

Very few rules were laid down, other than that the nominee should be under the age of 46 and must have made a significant contribution to the advancement of acoustical oceanography. The only other stipulation was that the prize must not be given to anyone who works purely in computer simulation of ocean acoustics. When I first saw the call for nominations, just one name came to mind as a potential nominee. This was **Prof Tim Leighton** from the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research, University of Southampton. Having previously obtained his CV for another purpose, I was able to draw on this to formulate the nomination letter. As part of the nomination I also provided the names of three eminent referees who, in turn, sent their letters of support to the ASA.

A committee of world renowned acoustical oceanographers had gathered to preside over the nomination and decide who was to be the first recipient of this prestigious prize.

In early April 2001 the ASA president tried to contact Tim to tell him that he had been selected as first recipient of the ASA Medwin prize. Unknown to the president, Prof Leighton had been away from the



**Professor Timothy G. Leighton**

office owing to health problems and his wife Sian had been diagnosed as requiring major surgery.

Consequently the president contacted me, as Tim's nominator, requesting that I pass on the news. It was an honour to relay this message to my friend and colleague, and bring a ray of sunshine into what had been a very difficult time.

I was also able to announce the award at the *IOA Acoustical Oceanography* conference held in Southampton during April 2001 (which had been jointly organised

by myself, Professor Leighton, Hugh Griffiths and Gwynn Griffiths).

Prof Leighton was awarded the Medwin prize at the 142nd meeting of the Acoustical Society of America held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

On the morning of 5 December 2001 he was introduced by Dr Peter Worcester (Chairman of the AO technical committee) and then invited to deliver an hour-long lecture entitled: *Surf zone bubble spectrometry: the role of the acoustic cross section*. This was presented in Tim's usual enthusiastic and dynamic manner, combining breakthroughs in both theory and experiment, and was well received by the audience.

Peter Worcester introduced Tim, using major points from his nomination document, and concluded by saying that many of us would be proud to have achieved just a small percent of this in a lifetime. He added that Tim had done all this before he was 46. Had he looked closer at the CV he would have realised that Prof Leighton is not yet 40! A copy of the citation read out by Peter Worcester is given below.

During the conference plenary session Professor Leighton was awarded the certificate and \$2000 prize. Unfortunately, Dr Medwin was not able to be present for the lecture or the first presentation as family health reasons prevented his attendance at the conference. He was pleased to see that this prize had not only been awarded to the most deserving person but also to someone outside the USA and an active participant in the Institute of Acoustics.

I would like to add my personal congratulations to Prof Leighton and I was delighted to be present when he was officially awarded the prize.

**Gary Heald FIOA**

### 142nd meeting of the Acoustical Society of America

## Acoustical Oceanography Prize Lecture

### Citation: Timothy Leighton

The first *Medwin Prize in Acoustical Oceanography* will be awarded to **Professor Timothy Leighton** in the Plenary Session this afternoon. He received the Prize 'for the effective use of sound in the discovery and understanding of physical processes and parameters in the sea, particularly ocean bubbles'.

Prof Leighton is Professor of Ultrasonics and Underwater Acoustics at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research (ISVR), University of Southampton, UK. He graduated in 1985 from the University of Cambridge with a Double First Class Degree in Physics and Theoretical Physics. He obtained a PhD at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, in 1988. He was then awarded Senior and Advanced Research Fellowships at Magdalene College of Cambridge University and the Engineering Physics and Science Research Council (EPSRC).

**'His research work is concerned primarily with the acoustics of bubbles'**

He is a leading figure in four fields: acoustical oceanography, biomedical ultrasonics, cavitation, and industrial acoustics. The Medwin Prize recognises his contributions to acoustical oceanography. His research work in acoustical oceanography is concerned

primarily with the acoustics of bubbles, in both theoretical and experimental form. At the age of 28, on joining ISVR as lecturer in underwater acoustics, he completed the monograph *The Acoustic*

*Bubble* (Academic Press). He is author of over 150 other publications. He has organised three international conferences, the Institute of Acoustics Conference on Acoustical Oceanography (2001); the Fourth International Conference on Natural Physical Processes Associated with Sea Surface Sound (1997); and Bioeffects of Ultrasound (1992).

He is a member of the Council of the

Institute of Acoustics, the Research Co-ordination Committee and the Underwater Acoustics Group Committee of the Institute of Acoustics, and a member of the Physical Acoustics Technical Committee of the Acoustical Society of America.

He was a founding member of the Ultrasonic and Acoustic Transducer Group sponsored by the UK Department of Trade and Industry, and is a member of the advisory editorial board of *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology*, Chairman of the Interdisciplinary Cavitation Research Group, and Editor-in-Chief of *Acoustical Oceanography* of the Institute of Acoustics. He is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, and a Fellow of the Institute of Acoustics. He was awarded the 1994 *A B Wood Medal for Underwater Acoustics* by the Institute of Acoustics. In 2000 he was awarded a Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship by the Royal Society.

**Dr Peter Worcester**

Chairman, AO Technical Committee, ASA