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MEDICAL PHYSICS

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Leading physicists gather at UWindsor

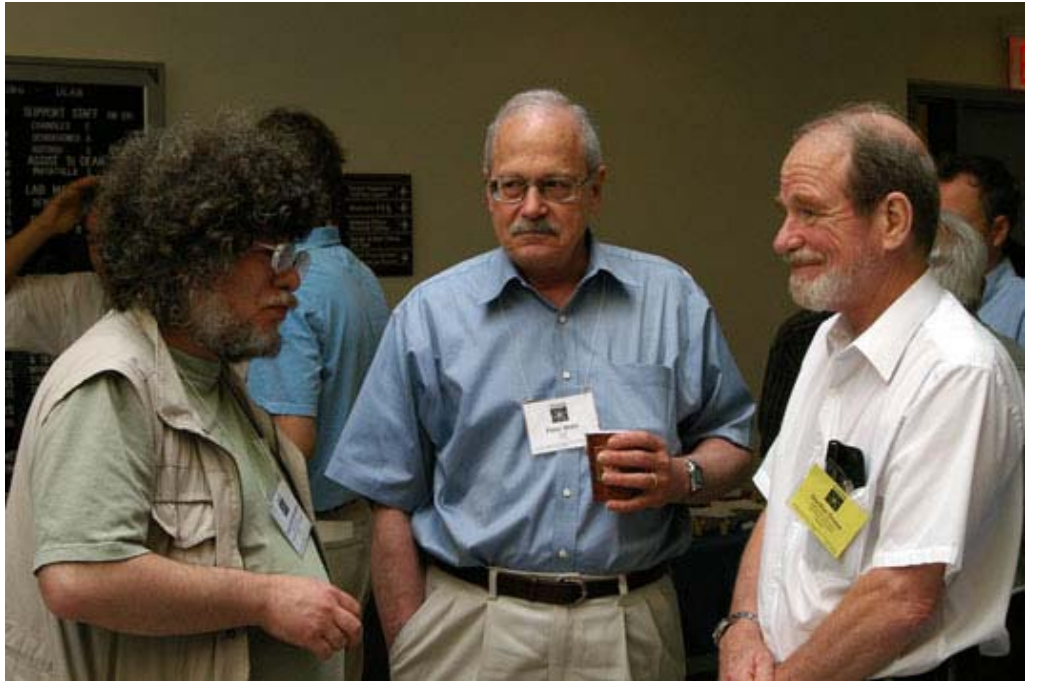


More than 60 big thinkers from around the world are on campus this week focusing their attention on the on infinitesimal details that help to define the structure of the universe.~ Physicists from as far away as Australia, Japan, North and South America and Europe are here to attend the five-day International Conference on Precision Physics of Simple Atomic Systems, which runs from July 21-26. "There have been some wonderful talks," enthused Dr. Gordon Drake, chair of the conference's organizing committee. "Some have been from the theoretical side and some have been from the experimental side and this is where we all come together to see if the two agree."

Drake said some of the more fascinating lectures focused on the methods used to measure a variety of fundamental constants, such as the speed of light and the actual sizes of protons and neutrons. Determining even minor changes in those constants over long periods of time could dramatically alter previously held beliefs about the age and origins of the universe, he said.

"An event of this stature, with so many leading physicists coming from all over the world to Windsor, speaks to the quality of the work being done here," said Dr. William McConkey, a UWindsor Professor Emeritus and internationally renowned physicist in his own right. His lifelong work in the field of atomic and molecular physics was recognized earlier this year with an Order of Ontario award.

In addition to attending conference workshops, registrants also had the chance to visit the waterfront sculpture gardens, Willistead Manor, Pelee Island, Point Pelee National Park, Viewpointe Winery and to take an optional trip to Niagara Falls.



UWindsor Physics Professor Gordon Drake, right, chair of the organizing committee for the International Conference on Precision Physics of Simple Atomic Systems, chats during a conference coffee break Wednesday morning with Savely Karshenboim of the German Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics, left, and Peter Mohr of the Maryland-based National Institute of Standards and Technology.