



Professor G. Franco
Bassani



Dr Gerald L. Liedl



Prof. Dr Peter Wyder

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After receiving his doctorate in physics from the University of Pavia in 1952, Franco Bassani had a brilliant career in various institutions in the United States and in Italy. As a research associate in the Department of Physics of the University of Illinois, then led by Professor Frederick Seitz, and later at Argonne National Laboratory, he developed a powerful method for band structure studies in semiconductors. As a professor of theoretical physics at the Universities of Messina, Pisa, and Rome and, currently, at Scuola Normale Superiore, he has established an internationally recognized school of condensed matter theory focussed on the optical and electronic properties of semiconductors and insulators, thus providing the scientific basis for their applications in optoelectronics.

In his distinguished career, Professor Bassani has received many honors including honorary degrees from several European universities. He is a member of the prestigious "Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei," and in 1979 was awarded the "Somaini" Prize by the Italian Physical Society. In 1994 he received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science from Purdue University for his innovative pioneering researches on the band structure and optical properties of semiconductors and for his intellectual leadership in condensed matter physics.

Dr Gerald L. Liedl

Gerald L. Liedl retired as professor and head of the School of Materials Engineering at Purdue University in 1999 after 40 years in higher education. He earned both his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University. His research involved applying x-ray scattering and electron microscopy to problems in materials science. He was the director and founder of both the Midwest Superconductivity Consortium (a six institution research organization) and the Midwest Analytical Team for Research Instrumentation of X-Rays (a four institution synchrotron users group). Also, he was a founding chair of the University Materials Council (organization of department chairs), faculty member of the National Technical University and a co-coordinator of the Career Resource Center for Materials Science and Engineering.

Prof.Dr.sc.nat. Prof. Dr Peter Wyder

Born on 26th February 1934, in Burgdorf (Switzerland).

Study of physics, doctorate Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH Zürich (1965),

Fellow of the Miller Institute of Basic Research in Science of the Univ. of California/Berkeley/USA (1965),

Research fellow Harvard Univ./USA (1966),

Professor of Physics Nijmegen University, The Netherlands (1967),

Director and Scientific Member of the Max-Planck-Institute for Solid-State Research (1985-2001),

Honorary Professor Konstanz University, Germany (1987) and Nijmegen University, The Netherlands (1989).