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Inspiring future mathematicians

The Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) and the London Mathematical Society (LMS) are delighted to announce that Professor Marcus du Sautoy, University of Oxford, will receive the 2014 Christopher Zeeman Medal for the Promotion of Mathematics to the Public.

Marcus du Sautoy has held the Charles Simonyi chair for the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford since 2008 and has been communicating mathematics to the general public for more than 20 years with considerable intensity and impact. His talent for engaging young people and inspiring them to follow mathematics is second to none. He shows the beauty of mathematics to wide audiences, which is a powerful motivator for many people, both young and old.

Du Sautoy has appeared in and presented numerous radio and TV programmes, written many popular books and contributed to theatrical productions. These include the *School of Hard Sums* and *TalkSport* as well as news programmes on the World Service, BBC Radio 4, 5 Live and local radio. In 2006 du Sautoy became only the third mathematician to deliver the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, which were widely regarded as exceptional. His play *X&Y*, which grew out of his collaboration with Complicité Theatre Company's production of *A Disappearing Number*, is an illuminating, thrilling work of theatre with mathematics genuinely at its core. His work with audiences exploring the mathematics in Mozart's *Magic Flute* is similarly remarkable as a piece of mathematical communication.

In a joint statement, IMA President Professor Dame Celia Hoyles and LMS President Professor Terry Lyons FRS said, 'We are delighted to award the 2014 Zeeman Medal to such a brilliant mathematician and exceptional communicator as Marcus du Sautoy. Mathematics plays a vital role in every aspect of our society and Professor du Sautoy plays a unique role in helping the public to become more excited about mathematics. He has an amazing ability to communicate the magic of mathematics to young and old alike, and to enthuse upcoming generations to engage with the subject.'

Du Sautoy's popular books have also been exceptionally well-received and have brought mathematics to wide audiences. *The Music of the Primes* has been translated into 11 languages and sold more than 100,000 copies.

In addition to his work with public engagement du Sautoy has had a distinguished research career in the mathematical sciences. This has been marked by invitations to lecture at high profile international conferences, publications in leading journals and prestigious prizes. His academic research has straddled many areas of mathematics including group theory, number theory, model theory and algebraic geometry.

Professor du Sautoy commented, 'It means a lot for me to win this prize. I went to Christopher Zeeman's Christmas Lectures at the Royal Institution when I was 13 and it was one of the things that inspired me to want to be a mathematician. All the work I've done over the years which has led to this award is my way of saying thank you to Christopher for opening my eyes to what a fantastic subject mathematics is.'

Notes for Editors

1. The **Christopher Zeeman Medal** is a triennial award of the IMA and LMS to recognise and reward the contributions of mathematicians involved in promoting mathematics to the public, and to encourage others to work in this area by demonstrating that such activities are valued and are a part of a mathematician's role and responsibilities. The medal is named in honour of Professor Sir Christopher Zeeman, FRS, one of the UK's foremost mathematicians who spent much of his career at the University of Warwick sharing his love of mathematics with the public. In 1978, Sir Christopher was the first ever mathematician to be asked to deliver the Royal Institution's Christmas lectures in its 125 year history.
2. The **London Mathematical Society (LMS)** is the UK's learned society for mathematics. Founded in 1865 for the promotion and extension of mathematical knowledge, the Society is concerned with all branches of mathematics and its applications. It is an independent and self-financing charity, with a membership of over 2600 drawn from all parts of the UK and overseas. Its principal activities are the organisation of meetings and conferences, the publication of periodicals and books, the provision of financial support for mathematical activities, and the contribution to public debates on issues related to mathematics research and education. It works collaboratively with other mathematical bodies worldwide. It is the UK adhering body to the International Mathematical Union. www.lms.ac.uk
3. The **Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA)** is the learned and professional society for mathematics. It promotes mathematics research, education and careers, and the use of mathematics in business, industry and commerce. Amongst its activities the IMA produces academic journals, organises conferences, and engages with government. Founded in 1964, the Institute has 5000 members. Forty percent of members are employed in education (schools through to universities), and the other 60% work in commercial, industrial and governmental organisations. In 1990 the Institute was incorporated by Royal Charter and was subsequently granted the right to award Chartered Mathematician designation. www.ima.org.uk
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