Laudatio

For his original and outstanding contributions to many aspects of statistical mechanics, in particular the physics of glassy systems

Prof. Dr. Peter Young

has been awarded the
Martin Gutzwiller Fellowship 2014
of the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems.

Peter Young has made a number of outstanding contributions to condensed matter physics, in particular in the field of disordered systems.

Throughout his career, Peter Young has made incisive contributions to many important problems, starting with Jahn-Teller systems followed by percolation problems, the Hubbard model, superconductor-insulator transitions and much more.

Peter Young has been one of the world's leading exponents of the field of spin glasses for many years. Undeterred by the formidable scientific (and sociological) obstacles to progress in this domain, he has provided many of the central insights, as well as some of the most reliable results, of the field. As only a partial testament to this, his review article together with Kurt Binder is one of the authoritative accounts of the field.

Recently, Peter Young has embraced the challenges thrown up by the dawn of quantum computing with his pioneering studies of the quantum complexity of familiar problems from many-body physics.

Peter Young has received a number of awards and distinctions, and he has also not shied away from carrying his fair share of the administrative burden of our community. We are very glad that, instead of taking a well-deserved break at his home institution in beautiful Santa Cruz, Peter Young continues to seek new scientific challenges, and we are honoured to award him the Gutzwiller Fellowship of the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems for the year 2014.