

An Internationally Prominent Mathematician to Deliver the Britton Lectures



From October 25th to 28th the world renowned mathematician, **S.R.S. Varadhan**, will deliver the annual Britton Lectures at McMaster's Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

A professor of the Courant Institute of Mathematical Science at New York University, S. R. S. Varadhan is a pioneer and the world leader in the theory of probability and stochastic processes. As one of the most influential probabilists of modern times, he has made profound contributions to many areas, including large deviations, the martingale method to diffusion processes, and hydrodynamic limits of random interacting particle systems.

Most recently, Dr. S. R. S. Varadhan has won the National Medal of Science for his work in probability theory, especially his work on large deviations from expected random behavior. The winners of the highest honor that the United States bestows on researchers, were announced by President Barack Obama on September 27, 2011.

Among his other honors, in 2007 the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awarded him the Abel Prize (an analog of the Nobel Prize in mathematics) "for his fundamental contribution to probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviations." Prof. S.R.S. Varadhan's remarkable achievement has also been recognized through a long list of other awards and honours, including the Birkhoff Prize of the American Mathematical Society, the Leroy Steele Prize, which was awarded for his work with Daniel W. Stroock on diffusion processes, and the Margaret and Herman Sokol Award of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, New York University. In 2008, the government of India awarded him the Padma Bhushan, which is its third highest civilian honour. He also has two honorary degrees from Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris and from Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, India. Varadhan is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. He was elected to Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1988), the Third World Academy of Sciences (1988), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (1991), the Royal Society (1998), the Indian Academy of Sciences (2004), and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (2009).

Prof. S.R.S Varadhan's work has been characterized by its clarity, originality and extreme beauty. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics is delighted for the opportunity to host him this year. In a series of four lectures, he will offer an overview for the development of modern probability theory, from which audiences will have an opportunity to appreciate his insight and his vision of the field of modern probability.