

EUGENE GARFIELD WINS THE
1984 DEREK JOHN DE SOLLA PRICE AWARD

The Editorial and Advisory Board and The Publishers of *Scientometrics* have awarded ISI President Dr. Eugene *Garfield* the 1984 Derek John de Solla Price Award for his distinguished contributions to the field of scientometrics.



Professor Michael *J. Moravcsik* (right) presents the Price Award to Dr. Eugene Garfield

ADDRESS AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE
FIRST DEREK DE Solla PRICE AWARD TO
EUGENE GARFIELD
ON DECEMBER 20, 1984

M. J. MORAVCSIK

*Institute of Theoretical Science, University
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Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am triply pleased today to be able to serve as an instrument at the presentation of the first Derek de Solla Price Memorial Medal to Eugene Garfield.

First, this occasion is a tribute to the memory of Derek de Solla Price whom we lost just over a year ago. Many of us in this room have known him personally, and even more of us have been energized, illuminated, stimulated, and made more productive by what he said and wrote. In a personal sense, his death is marked by finality and by an onset of a permanent discontinuity. But, while in this personal sense life is not cumulative, Derek's professional contributions are cumulative. What he started and advocated continues to grow, perhaps in directions and along dimensions sometimes different from Derek's own views and perceptions, and one of the aims of this medal is to underscore this continuity and cumulation by honoring those who play a significant role in this ongoing development of scientometrics.

Second, I am also pleased to be able to make this presentation since it also pays tribute to the journal *Scientometrics* and to its managing editor since its foundation, Tibor Braun. It was Tibor's idea to establish this medal and to make it a visible sign of the continued vigor and energy of the discipline of scientometrics. Since the other such sign, namely the existence and the flourishing of the journal *Scientometrics*, is a result, to a large extent, of Tibor's energy, skill, creativity, and perseverance, it is only appropriate that at this first presentation of the medal we recognize him also.

But clearly, the main thrust of today's occasion is to recognize and honor the first recipient of this medal, Eugene Garfield, and this is the third source of my pleasure in having been asked to make this presentation today. As you know, the medal is awarded by a procedure involving the editorial advisory board of the journal *Scientometrics*. The board consists of some 60 or so people from around the world who were selected to be members of the board because of their involvement in and contribution to the discipline of scientometrics. Members of the board were asked to nominate

people for the medal on the basis of significant contributions to the discipline of scientometrics. Nominations for 17 names were received, and these names were then presented for vote to the members of the board. Each member could give six choices, ordered so that the top choice received 6 points, the second choice 5, etc. The total number of points received by each of the 17 names was then tabulated and the name which received the largest number of points was declared the winner for this first year.

I am pleased to tell you that Eugene Garfield was not only the winner, but he received about twice as many points as the second one in the final tabulation. I would like to interpret this landslide in terms of the structure of the scientometric community of scientists and scholars.

Scientometrics is a so-called interdisciplinary field, *not* in the sense that it is concerned with a narrow subject that happens to fall between two traditional disciplinary designations, but in the sense of involving a large number of traditional disciplines because of the breadth of its scope. We have among us historians, psychologists, sociologists, philosophers, physicists, science managers, administrators of governmental and private foundations, economists, and people from many other walks of life. One can, if one wants to, classify these people into two main categories, namely people who *think* about scientometrics (the "academicans"), and people who *use* scientometrics (the science policy people), but in any case, the emphasis in the present context is on a broad variety of interests and points of view.

Considering this enormous heterogeneity in the discipline of scientometrics, and the consequent spectrum of controversies and debates that make the discipline so lively and interesting, it is quite natural that the first recipient of the new medal be somebody whose contributions have united the community of the science of science, and whose accomplishments are judged significant almost regardless of the particular point of view of a member of this community. Gene's work, perhaps more so than that of anybody else, satisfies this criterion. His pioneering work and his practical implementation of his ideas created a framework and an instrument for scientometrics that have formed the basis of an enormous variety of research by an equally enormous variety of researchers. In addition, and perhaps to the amazement of at least the academic segment of our community, Gene has shown also that the highest quality of scholarly and scientific contribution can go hand-in-hand with commercial success and is not necessarily something that needs to be kept alive by public subsidy.

On all these counts, I am very glad indeed to be able to present the first Derek de Solla Price medal to Gene Garfield, and, speaking for the Editorial Advisory Board of *Scientometrics* and also for the managing editor of the journal, Tibor Braun, I want to wish you continued success for your work.