

Mailed 4/9/92

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CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — University of Illinois research scientist Paul C. Lauterbur is to receive the state of Illinois' highest award, the Order of Lincoln Medallion.

Gov. Jim Edgar will award the medallion to Lauterbur and five other distinguished Illinois citizens in a ceremony Saturday (April 11) at Millikin University, Decatur.

Lauterbur is known for his groundbreaking research in magnetic resonance imaging, a non-invasive diagnostic technique used extensively in medicine to view internal parts of the human body. Unlike X-rays or surgery, the high-quality images produced by MRI carry no known risk to patients. His research also includes applying imaging techniques in a variety of disciplines, from agronomy to neuroscience. Magnetic resonance allows researchers to study internal dynamics without disturbing processes.

Lauterbur, who joined the U. of I. in 1985, is director of the Biomedical Magnetic Research Laboratory and a member of the university's multidisciplinary Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. He also is in charge of a National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center for Magnetic Resonance Technology for Basic Biological Research at the U. of I. A professor of medical information science, chemistry, biophysics and bioengineering on the Urbana-Champaign campus, Lauterbur also is on the faculty of the U. of I. College of Medicine in Chicago.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Lauterbur has received many prestigious national and international awards, including the National Medal of Science.

The Lincoln Academy is a non-profit organization established in 1965 to recognize individuals who, by birth or residence, have brought honor to the state and whose accomplishments have benefited humanity.

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