



THE GEORGES LEMAÎTRE INTERNATIONAL PRIZE 2016

Tuesday 18 October 2016

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King

Professor Vincent Blondel, Rector of the Université catholique de Louvain,

Baron Stéphanne, President of the Fondation Louvain,

have the honour of inviting you to the award ceremony of the Georges Lemaître International Prize 2016 conferred to
Professor Kip S. Thorne,

The Feynman Professor for Theoretical Physics, Emeritus, Caltech (USA).

Professor Thorne is a theoretical physicist known for his seminal contributions to relativistic gravitational and black hole physics and astrophysics. He is one of the world's leading experts on the astrophysical implications of Einstein's general theory of relativity, close to Lemaître's interests. His research has focused on Einstein's general theory of relativity and on astrophysics, with emphasis on relativistic stars, black holes and especially gravitational waves. Together with Ronald Drever and Rainer Weiss, he was cofounder of the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) Project, which made the breakthrough discovery of gravitational waves from coalescing black holes, 100 years after Einstein's prediction, Kip Thorne being closest to Lemaître's interests. Their results fit the predictions of general relativity with superb accuracy. His current research is on the nonlinear dynamics of curved spacetime, while now also pursuing a career in writing and producing movies. His first Hollywood movie was Christopher Nolan's Interstellar, on which he was executive producer and science advisor.

Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 17h00



Parking

Parking de l'Accueil - Esplanade
www.lesplanade-shopping.be

Venue Sénat académique

Halles Universitaires – Place de l'Université, 1 – 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve

Reply and registration www.uclouvain.be/prix-lemaître by 12 October 2016

PROGRAMME OF THE AWARD CEREMONY

- 17.00** Welcome address by **Professor Vincent Blondel**, Rector of the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL)
- 17.05** Presentation of the Laureate by **Professor Jean-Christophe Renaud**, Vice-Rector for Research UCL
- 17.15** *My Life in Science*, Conference by the Laureate, **Professor Kip Thorne**
(The Feynman Professor for Theoretical Physics, Emeritus, Caltech, USA)
- 17.25** Award of the Georges Lemaître International Prize 2016 by **Professor Vincent Blondel**
- 17.50** Concluding address by **Professor Vincent Lemaître** (Institut de Recherche en Mathématique et Physique – Centre for Cosmology, Particle Physics and Phenomenology, UCL)
- 18.00** Invitation to the vernissage at the Forum des Halles of the exhibit « *Georges Lemaître, le maître du Big Bang* » organised by the Georges Lemaître Archives, UCL-Culture and Scienceinfuse
- 18.30** Exhibit at the Forum des Halles and cocktail



Every second year the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) awards the Georges Lemaître International Prize, founded in 1995, to either a Belgian or an international scientific personality who, through his/her academic career, has contributed most remarkably to the development and promotion of scientific knowledge in the fields of cosmology, astronomy, astrophysics, geophysics or space research. Laureates are selected by an international scientific committee chaired by the Vice-Rector for Research UCL.

2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of Monsignor Georges Lemaître on the 20th of June 1966. The Georges Lemaître International Prize 2016 is conferred to a renowned scientist in the fields of relativistic astrophysics, black hole cosmology and gravitational wave physics and is the highlight of a series of events organised throughout the academic year 2016-2017 to celebrate the scientific legacy of the founder of modern scientific cosmology. Georges Lemaître is a former professor at the Université catholique de Louvain. The programme of these events as part of the University's Year of the Scientific Adventure, is available at www.uclouvain.be/aventure-scientifique.



Avec le soutien de la

