MIT Professor William Bertozzi, recognized as a world leader and innovator in the field of experimental electromagnetic nuclear physics, is the first recipient of the Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Award presented by Jefferson Science Associates.

Bertozzi received the award, which includes a $10,000 prize, during a special session at Jefferson Lab’s annual Users Group Workshop and Meeting held in June.

“Bill’s contributions to the nuclear physics program at Jefferson Lab are many … (ranging from) his leadership in the development of the use of electron scattering as a tool for the study of nuclear and nucleon structure and in the development of experimental techniques and novel instrumentation to carry out these measurements … (to) his mentoring of many of the most active members of the Jefferson Lab community as Ph.D. students and postdocs,” wrote Lawrence Cardman, former Jefferson Lab associate director for experimental nuclear physics, in a letter supporting the nomination of Bertozzi for the award.

SURA President & CEO Jerry Draayer and CSC/ATG President Alan Weakley, the owner representatives on the JSA Board of Directors, applauded the selection panel’s choice, noting Bertozzi’s pioneering work in the field and career-long support for the physics being advanced at Jefferson Lab.

“In making an inaugural award, it is especially important to choose someone distinctive. Bill Bertozzi has had a long history of leadership in his work at Jefferson Lab. Yet what makes him so unique is evidenced in a letter he wrote in response to notification that he had been selected where he spoke of his ‘many brilliant graduate students, postdocs and colleagues at MIT and other universities along with the expert staff at Jefferson Lab.’” said JSA President and Jefferson Lab Director Hugh Montgomery. “I believe the selection panel was successful in its mission.”

The selection panel included Thomas Appelquist, Yale University; John Hardy, Texas A&M; Robert McKeown, deputy director for Science and Technology, Jefferson Lab; Stephen Wallace, University of Maryland; and, Elizabeth Lawson, SURA chief governance officer and principal JSA/JLab liaison.

Bertozzi, a physics professor at MIT since 1968, is the principal investigator leading the Nuclear Interactions Group at the MIT Laboratory for Nuclear Science. In that capacity, he is engaged in investigating the structure of nucleons and nuclei using high-energy electrons and photons as probes.

During his career, he has been the recipient of many awards and fellowships, including the Mentoring Award from the American Physical Society (2008), the Shell Graduate Fellowship at MIT (1954-56), and fellowships with both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society, and the Summer Internship Program at Brookhaven National Laboratory (1953). After accepting the award on June 6, Bertozzi acknowledged and thanked Jefferson Science Associates and SURA, as well as the many colleagues, students, postdocs and JLab staff he has worked with over the years. He presented a history of the lab’s inception and development that he called “a marvelous adventure; and concluded saying, “JLab is now the world’s foremost facility for probing cold, strongly interacting systems at short distances.” He and his students plan to use it for a longtime to come.

The Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Award is one of many projects supported by the JSA Initiatives Fund, a program funded by JSA owners (SURA and CSC) to support efforts that further the scientific outreach and promote the science, education and technology missions of Jefferson Lab and the lab’s user community. The annual commitment is administered by the JSA Programs Committee. For more information, see http://www.jsallc.org/IF/IFIndex.html.