

# Turbulence pioneers Kraichnan and Zakharov awarded 2003 Dirac Medal

Robert H Kraichnan and Vladimir E Zakharov, two pioneer physicists in the field of turbulence, have been awarded the 2003 Dirac Medal of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics.

Robert Kraichnan, who was one of Albert Einstein's last assistants at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, has had a long career as a consultant in a variety of

governmental organizations and private firms, including MIT, the National Science Foundation and the US Department of Energy. He has conducted pioneering research on field-theoretic approaches to turbulence and other non-equilibrium systems. Most noteworthy are his insights into the inverse cascade for two-dimensional turbulence.

Vladimir Zakharov, who is director and

professor of physics at the Landau Institute for Theoretical Physics in Moscow, is an expert in the mathematical physics of nonlinear phenomena. Zakharov's work has proven to be instrumental to our basic understanding of plasma physics, hydrodynamics, magnetism and optics, in particular contributing to a deep understanding of weak wave turbulence.