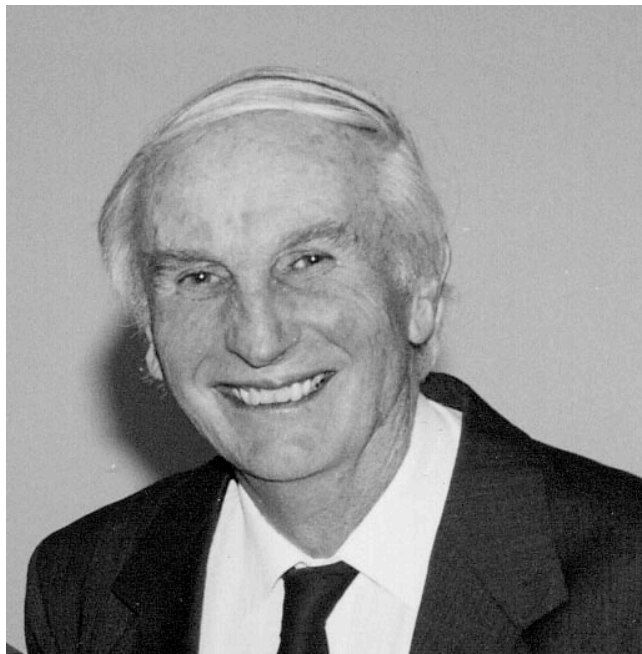


de Laeter Medal

**Emeritus Professor
John de Laeter
1933 – 2010**

Emeritus Professor John de Laeter the Patron of the Science Teachers' Association of Western Australia (STAWA). John de Laeter was one of the State's most noted science educators. He made a long-standing contribution as a science teacher, teacher educator, research scientist, and worked tirelessly as an ambassador for science and science education at a State and National level.



In 2008 The Western Australian Government inducted John into the Western Australian Science Hall of Fame. Inductees to the Science Hall of Fame are recognised for meritorious contribution to the science community over an extended period of time. Professor de Laeter was the third recipient of this honour and joins Scitech and Nobel Laureates Professor Barry Marshall and Dr Robin Warren.

John's actions were seminal to the foundation of the Science and Mathematics Education Centre (SMEC) at Curtin University of Technology – a Centre to update the content knowledge of science teachers. He has been Deputy Vice-chancellor (Research and Development) at Curtin.

As a great supporter of STAWA and science education in general, John chaired STAWA's review of the *Quality and Supply of Science Teachers* and STAWA's Educational Advisory Committee in the early 1990's. John was the Chairman of the Gravity Discovery Centre Foundation, and Deputy Chair of Earth Science WA. He also served as the Patron of Scitech.

John's scientific expertise included: Mass Spectrometry; Geochronology; Meteorites; Atomic Weights; Science Education; and Astrophysics. John could be found working on most days at the John de Laeter Centre of Mass Spectrometry, in the Department of Applied Physics at Curtin University right up until his death. Though sadly missed his legacy to science and science education remains strong.