

# **19<sup>th</sup> Fusion Energy Conference 2002**

## **Artsimovich Memorial Session**

### **Opening Remarks**

**U. Finzi**  
**Chairman “ad interim” IFRC**

Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Fusion Research Council (IFRC) has discussed the question of the denomination of this session and its content. It has decided, by consensus, to maintain the original name “Artsimovich Memorial Session”, because traditions must be respected, but to add the subtitle “in honour of fusion pioneers”. The main reason is that, in addition to Lev Artsimovich, there have been in the past, there are at present and there will be – hopefully – in the future other outstanding contributors to the development of fusion.

Concerning the past, the recent past, I will mention here – so that we honour their memory – the names of some fusion pioneers who passed away in the last two years. These are Hugh Bodin, Harold Furth, Melvine Gottlieb, Charles Maisonnier, Lyman Spitzer and Thomas Stix. There are probably other names that did not come to the minds of the IFRC members. These names might be recalled at the next IAEA Fusion Energy Conference to be held in Portugal.

But let us turn now to the future. We will have to work out some way of honouring, and perhaps rewarding, the most brilliant fusion scientists and, in particular, the young ones.

Concerning the present, I have now the honour of inviting to this Artsimovich Memorial Session an active fusion pioneer. Professor René Pellat is a well known theoretician of plasma physics. His scientific production covers a wide spectrum ranging from fusion plasmas to space and astrophysical plasmas. He is also the High Commissioner of the French Atomic Energy Commission and, last but not least, he is the chairman of the EURATOM Consultative Committee for fusion.