



Fowler Award to Prof. Sultana Nahar

From Jason Pinkney <j-pinkney@onu.edu>

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To Thompson, Todd <thompson.1847@osu.edu>; OSU Office of the President <president@osu.edu>; Olesik, Susan <olesik@chemistry.ohio-state.edu>; Horn, David <horn.5@osu.edu>

Cc Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>

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Dear President Carter, Dean Olesik, Dean Horn, and Astronomy Chair Thompson of OSU,

I am pleased to announce that Prof. Sultana Nahar of the Department of Astronomy has received the William Fowler Award for Research from the Eastern Great Lakes Section (EGLS) of the American Physical Society (APS).

A plaque and commendation were handed to Professor Nahar at our recent spring meeting at Wright State University on April 11, 2025.

Here is a transcript of the award introduction:

The William Fowler Award for Distinguished Research in Physics is to honor those members of the Society with appreciable connections to the EGLS Region at some time in their life, who have done outstanding research in physics. It is named in honor of William Fowler who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1983 for his work on stellar nucleosynthesis.

Tonight's recipient of the William Fowler Award is Professor Sultana Nahar of The Ohio State University. After receiving her Masters of Science and Bachelors of Science from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sultana came to Wayne State University in Detroit to earn a Masters in Quantum Optics and a Ph. D. in Atomic Physics. Soon after, in 1990, she joined The Ohio State University's astronomy department. Many of her career accomplishments have been related to astrophysics, in particular atomic processes in astrophysical plasmas. She has about 95 publications related to photoionization, and she co-authored a graduate level textbook called "Atomic Astrophysics and Spectroscopy". Nahar has written about 11 papers on electron and positron scattering. She is an expert in the R-matrix method for large-scale calculations

of radiative transitions, with about 50 related publications. Sultana is also a lead contributor to international collaborations such as the Opacity Project and the Iron Project. In fact, her extensive work on iron ions has earned her the nickname of "The Iron Lady" among astronomers. She is the founder of the NORAD-Atomic Database, containing comprehensive listings of atomic transitions, cross-sections, recombination times, etc.. In case you think NORAD refers to the missile defense system, it actually stands for Nahar OSU Radiative! I needed something short to describe her research on her plaque, so I just said "atomic astrophysics", but her contributions actually go beyond astronomy. In particular, she has contributed to the treatment of cancer with her papers on "Resonant Nano-plasma Theranostics" (RNPT), which involves X-ray spectroscopy of high Z elements. On behalf of the EGLS Awards Committee, I am honored to present Sultana Nahar with this commendation and plaque for the William Fowler Award.

This was followed by Professor Nahar's words of thanks, and photos taken with me, the chair of the Awards Committee. I'll attach one of the photos below.

Incidentally, the namesake of the award, William Fowler, also worked at OSU.

This Fowler Award has not been given since 2018. So congratulations again to you all for this prestigious and rare award!

Sincerely,
Jason Pinkney
Chair of the EGLS Awards Committee

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