

Biographical Profile

Ahmed Zewail is the Linus Pauling Chair professor of chemistry and professor of physics at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). For ten years, he was the Director of the National Science Foundation's *Laboratory for Molecular Sciences* (LMS), and is currently the Director of the Moore Foundation's *Center for Physical Biology* at Caltech. He received his early education in Egypt and in the U.S. completed a Ph. D. from the University of Pennsylvania and a postdoctoral (IBM) fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley before joining the faculty at Caltech.

Dr. Zewail was awarded the 1999 Nobel Prize for his pioneering developments in *femtoscience*, making possible observations of molecular phenomena in femtosecond, a millionth of a billionth of a second, the scale of atomic motion. More recently, he and his group have developed *4D electron microscopy* for the direct visualization of materials and biological behavior in the four dimensions of *space* and *time*.

In California, Dr. Zewail resides with his wife Dema Faham, and he is a proud father of four children: Maha, Amani, Nabeel, and Hani; two of them have scholarly bonding to Caltech and Berkeley. Over the years he has mentored more than 300 members of his research school, and published more than 500 articles and treatises. His biography, "*Voyage through Time*", and "*Age of Science*", which has now been celebrated in 17 languages and editions, offers an exposé of his life, science and world affairs until the receipt of the Nobel Prize.

For his contributions to science and for his public service, Dr. Zewail has garnered honors and awards from around the globe. Honorary Degrees in the sciences, arts, philosophy, law, medicine, and humane letters have been conferred on him, including those from Oxford University, Cambridge University, Peking University, École Normale Supérieure, and the University of Pennsylvania. He has been decorated with Orders of State and Merit, including the Order of the Grand Collar of the Nile, Egypt's highest state honor, and postage stamps have been issued in commemoration of his contributions to science and humanity. Among other honors, he has received the Albert Einstein World Award, Benjamin Franklin Medal, Leonardo da Vinci Award, Robert A. Welch Award, Wolf Prize, King Faisal Prize and the Othmer Gold Medal. In his name, international prizes have been established in Amsterdam, Cairo, Detroit, Trieste, and Washington (DC), and in Cairo the AZ Foundation is now providing support for the dissemination of knowledge and for merit awards in arts and sciences.

On April 27, 2009, President Barack Obama appointed him to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and in November of the same year, he was named the first United States Science Envoy to the Middle East. He is an elected member of academies and learned societies, including the American Philosophical Society, National Academy of Sciences, Royal Society of London, French Academy, Russian Academy, Chinese Academy, and the Swedish Academy. Dr. Zewail has given public lectures on science and on the promotion of education and partnership for world peace, and continues to serve on national and international boards for academic, cultural, and world affairs.