

## **Announcement: George Lazarides Memorial Prize Winners**

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the inaugural George Lazarides Memorial Prize, established to honor the profound legacy of our esteemed colleague, Professor George Lazarides. Professor Lazarides made groundbreaking contributions to Theoretical Physics, particularly in particle physics, cosmology, cosmic string topological defects, monopoles, inflation, supersymmetry, and the unification of fundamental interactions. His unwavering dedication to mentoring students and young researchers at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, inspired generations. This prize is thus reserved for outstanding PhD students and early-career postdoctoral researchers in these fields.

The Selection Committee -chaired by George Leontaris, with members Steve King and Antonio Masiero- was deeply impressed by the uniformly high scientific caliber of the nominations received. The exceptional work submitted, often from institutions facing significant research challenges, demonstrated the vibrant continuation of Professor Lazarides' research legacy by the younger generation.

After rigorous evaluation, with primary emphasis on scientific excellence, the Committee has decided to award the prize jointly and equally to the following three exceptional young researchers (listed alphabetically by family name):

- **Adeela Afzal**
- **Kevin Hinze**
- **Wenqi Ke**

This award recognizes their outstanding research achievements and exceptional promise in the fields championed by Professor Lazarides.

The Committee also wishes to acknowledge the remarkable quality of all nominated candidates. While not selected as winners, their research profiles were truly excellent and deserving. The limitation to three awardees reflects the constraints of the prize structure, akin to prestigious awards like the Nobel Prize, and is not a reflection on the merit of the other exceptional candidates.

### **Award Ceremony Invitation**

The George Lazarides Memorial Prize will be formally presented at a special ceremony on:

Date: **Saturday, August 30, 2025**

Event: Corfu Summer Institute - Special Memorial Session Honoring George Lazarides

Details & Registration: <https://www.physics.ntua.gr/corfu2025/sm.html>

We cordially invite the winners, all nominees, nominators, colleagues, and the wider scientific community to join us in celebrating Professor Lazarides' life, work, and enduring influence.