

William H. Press

2/2025

Present position:

Professor, Department of Computer Science and Department of Integrative Biology, and Leslie Surginer Professor, University of Texas at Austin, 2007–

Concurrent positions:

Treasurer, National Academy of Sciences (NAS); member of NAS Council; member of National Research Council (NRC) Governing Board, 2016–
Faculty, Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences, UT Austin, 2007–
Faculty, Institute for Cellular and Molecular Biology, UT Austin 2007–, Warren J. and Viola M. Raymer Faculty Fellow, 2018–
Laboratory Senior Fellow, Los Alamos National Laboratory, 2004–2008; emeritus, 2008–

Previous positions:

Deputy Laboratory Director for Science and Technology, Los Alamos National Laboratory, 1998–2004
Professor of Astronomy and of Physics, Harvard University, 1976–1998; Department Chair in Astronomy, 1982–85
Assistant Professor of Physics, Princeton University, 1974–76
Assistant Professor of Theoretical Physics, California Institute of Technology, 1973–74
Richard Chace Tolman Research Fellow in Theoretical Physics, California Institute of Technology, 1972–73
Fannie and John Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellow, California Institute of Technology, 1969–72

Honors and awards:

Member, National Academy of Sciences, 1994–; Computer and Information Sciences Section, charter member, 2000–
Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1993–
Member, Council on Foreign Relations, 2002–
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2014–
Member, The Academy of Medicine, Engineering, and Science of Texas, 2007–
William D. Carey Medal, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2015
California Institute of Technology Distinguished Alumnus Award, 2008

Most frequently cited U.S. Astronomer, 1990-1993 (study in *Quarterly Journal Royal Astronomical Society*)

Science Digest America's 100 Brightest Scientists Under 40, 1984

Helen B. Warner Prize of the American Astronomical Society, 1981

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellow, 1974–78

Associations:

Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

Fellow, American Physical Society

Association for Computing Machinery

American Astronomical Society

International Astronomical Union

International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation

Sigma Xi

Phi Beta Kappa

Education:

Ph.D. California Institute of Technology, 1972 (Physics)

Ph.D. advisor: Kip S. Thorne

M.S. California Institute of Technology, 1971 (Physics)

A.B. Harvard College, 1969 (Physics, *magna cum laude*)

Selected Professional Activities:

Flatiron Institute of the Simons Foundation, Scientific Advisory Board, 2018–
Chair, 2024—

Simons Foundation (New York, NY), Board of Directors, 2017–

Editorial Board, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS),
2007–

JASON Study Group (MITRE Corporation), 1977–
Chair, 1995-1998

President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

Appointed, Obama Administration, 2009; Vice Chair, 2010–2017.

Reappointed, Biden Administration: 2021–2025

Committee on International Security and Arms Control, NAS, 2008–2011

Participant, U.S.-China Cybersecurity Dialogues, 2011–2025

Institute for Defense Analyses (Alexandria, VA), Board of Trustees, 1988–
2021 (Executive Committee, 1990–2015); Emeritus 2021–2023

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS),

President-elect, 2011-2012; President, 2012-2013; Board Chair, 2013-
2014

Scientific Advisory Committee, David and Lucille Packard Fellowships for
Science and Engineering, 1988–2014

Report Review Committee, National Research Council, 2005–2011

Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, National Research Council, 1991-1996 and 2008–2011

Chair, U.S. delegation to U.S.-France-Iran Workshop on Appropriate Uses of Science, NAS, 2009.

Chair, Nominating Committee for Council and Officers, NAS, 2005–2006

U.S.-Russia Committee on Strengthening Cooperative Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs, NAS, 2004–2005

Board of Visitors, Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences (ICES), University of Texas, Austin, 2003–2006

Nominating Committee for President of NAS, 2003–2004

Committee on the Future of Supercomputing, NAS/NRC, 2003–2004

Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences Advisory Council, NAS/NRC, 2001–2005

Threat Reduction Advisory Committee (TRAC) Science and Technology Panel, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, 2000–2005

Co-Chair, Commission on Physical Sciences and Mathematical Applications, NAS/NRC, 2000–2001

SLAC Scientific Policy Committee, Stanford University, 1999–2002

Chair, Panel on Theory and Computation, Astronomy and Astrophysics Survey Committee, NAS/NRC, 1998–2000

National Reconnaissance Office Technical Advisory Group (charter member), 1998–2001

CNO Executive Panel, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy, 1994–2000

Heineman Prize Selection Committee, American Astronomical Society, 1996–1999; Warner-Pierce Prize Committee, 1991-1993

DCI's Science and Technology Advisory Panel (STAP), National Intelligence Council, 1996–1998

U.S. Delegation to XXII General Assembly, International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, 1996

Future of Space Science Steering Group, Space Studies Board, NAS/NRC, 1994–1996

German-American Frontiers of Science Organizing Committee, NAS/NRC, 1994–1995.

Committee on Non-Departmental Instruction, Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 1992–1998

Superconducting Super-Collider Scientific Policy Committee, 1989–1992

Astronomy and Astrophysics Survey Committee (Bahcall Committee), NAS/NRC, 1989–91

Program Committee, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, 1985–91

Physics Department Advisory Council, Princeton University, 1986–90
Film and Television Committee, NAS, 1986–1992
Member, U.S. Defense Science Board, 1985–1989
Consultant, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, 1973–1993
Consultant, Los Alamos National Laboratory, 1984–1990
Associate Editor, *Annals of Physics*, 1984–91
Advisory Board of the NSF Institute for Theoretical Physics, 1984–88;
 Chairman, 1986–87
Visiting Member, Institute for Advanced Study, Spring Terms, 1983, 1984,
 1987, 1988, 1994
Panel on Basic Science and Technology Centers, NAS, 1987.
Scientific Advisory Committee, 13th Texas Symposium on Relativistic
 Astrophysics, 1985–86
Theoretical and Computational Physics Advisory Committee, Los Alamos
 National Laboratory, 1984-1986
Panel on the Interfaces and Applications of Physics of the Physics Survey
 Committee (Brinkman Committee), NAS/NRC, 1983-1984
Visiting Committee, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of
 Rochester, 1984
Committee on Atmospheric Effects of Nuclear Explosions (NAS/ NRC),
 1983-1984
Outside Consultant to the Commander, Air Force Geophysical Laboratory, 1982
Organizing Committee, 11th Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics, 1982
Advisory Committee on Physics (Physics Division, NSF), 1978-1981
Chairman, Subcommittee on Computational Facilities for Theoretical Physics
 (Advisory Committee on Physics, Physics Division, NSF), 1980-1981
Editorial Board, Series on Theoretical Astrophysics (University of Chicago
 Press), 1980-1985
Advocacy Panel, Study on the Physics of the Sun (Space Science Board,
 NAS/NRC), 1980-1981
Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Theory in Space Sciences (Space Science
 Board, NAS/NRC), 1980
Panel on Theoretical and Laboratory Astrophysics, and Panel on Data
 Processing and Computational Facilities, of the Astronomy Survey
 Committee (Field Committee), NAS/NRC, 1979-1980
Ad Hoc Committee on New Directions (NASA Advisory Council), 1980
Ad Hoc Committee on Innovation (NASA Advisory Council), 1979
Review Panel on Gravitation Physics (Advisory Committee on Physics,
 Physics Division, NSF), 1978

Program Committee, 8th International Conference on General Relativity and
Gravitation, 1977

Other Information:

Born, May 23, 1948; married, two children.
Technician amateur radio license, K5KAA