



Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi



1921 - Born in Mount Vernon, N.Y., and his family later moves to Toronto.

1949 - Receives a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Toronto, and becomes a research associate and fellow at Columbia University, working with Charles Townes.

1951 - Joins Bell Labs as a research physicist, and marries Aurelia Townes, sister of Charles Townes.

1955 - Co-authors the book Microwave Spectroscopy with Townes.

1957 - Begins working with Townes on the principles of a device -- the laser -- that could operate at shorter wavelengths than the maser.

1958 - Proposes with Townes in a paper published in the December Physical Review that the principles of the maser could be extended to the optical regions of the spectrum.

1960 - Receives with Townes a patent for the invention of the laser. The first working laser, at 0.69 microns in ruby, is built by Theodore Maiman at Hughes Aircraft Company. Schawlow becomes a visiting professor at Columbia University.

1961 - Joins the Physics Department at Stanford University, concentrating on molecular spectroscopy.

1966 - Becomes chairman of the Physics Department at Stanford.

1981 - Receives the Nobel Prize in Physics for his "contribution to the development of laser spectroscopy."

1998 - Joins Townes and scientists from Bell Labs and around the world to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the laser at the CLEO conference in San Francisco.

1999 - Arthur Schawlow dies at 9:30 a.m, April 28, at Stanford Hospital.

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