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QUOTE

“On average, we tend to participate in less physical activity and be less fit each year after about age 30.”

January 19, 2010 | Faculty

Taflove Named Bette and Neison Harris Professor in Teaching Excellence

By [Jasmine Rangel](#)

EVANSTON, Ill. — Allen Taflove, professor of electrical engineering and computer science in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science at Northwestern, has been named the Bette and Neison Harris Professor in Teaching Excellence.

Taflove's research involves using the finite-difference time-domain (FDTD) method to solve Maxwell's equations, the fundamental equations of nature that govern electromagnetic wave phenomena.

He has served as faculty adviser to the Undergraduate Research Journal, the Undergraduate Design Competition, the Honors Program in Undergraduate Research and the student chapters of the Eta Kappa Nu and Tau Beta Pi honor societies. Taflove is the first McCormick faculty member to be named both Teacher of the Year and Advisor of the Year in a single academic year (2005-06). He was appointed a Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence (2000-03), received the Northwestern Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award (2008) and was selected seven times to the Associated Student Government honor roll of best teachers. From 2000 to 2005, Taflove served as the faculty master of the Lindgren/Slivka Science and Engineering Residential College.

Taflove joined Northwestern's faculty in 1984. He received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Northwestern. He pioneered finite-difference time-domain computational solutions of the fundamental Maxwell's equations for scientific and engineering problems. In 2002, he was named to the original list of the world's most-cited researchers by ISIHighlyCited.com. His current research, in collaboration with Vadim Backman, a professor in McCormick's department of biomedical engineering, is developing novel, minimally invasive means to detect deadly human cancers of the colon, pancreas and lung at a very early stage.



Northwestern University President Morton Schapiro, Prof. Allen Taflove, and McCormick School of Engineering Dean Julio Ottino