Dr. Richard M. Christensen

1989 WINNER
MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE
IN COMPOSITE MATERIALS

Dr. Richard M. Christensen has had a varied career in industry, academia, and national laboratories. He was employed by Convair Division of General Dynamics, 1956-58; a member of the technical staff of TRW Systems, 1961-64; Assistant Professor of Applied Mechanics at the University of California at Berkeley, 1964-67; with Shell Development Company in Houston and the Netherlands, 1967-74; and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Washington University, St. Louis, 1974-76. He joined Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1976.

Dr. Christensen has been active in composite materials development, with work ranging from basic research to practical applications of modern materials. He has published more than 50 papers and written two books – Theory of Viscoelasticity (2nd edition) and Mechanics of Composite Materials.

Dr. Christensen has received the Worchester Read Warner Medal from ASME and the Prager Medal from the Society of Engineering Science, as well as a Research and Development Achievement Award from the U. S. Army. He recently received the Dow Distinguished Guest Lectureship award from the University of Massachusetts. He is a past Chairman of the Applied Mechanics Division of ASME, and he currently is the Chairman of the U. S. National Committee for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. He is a Fellow of ASME and SES, and he is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Dr. Christensen received a B.S. from the University of Utah and M. Eng. And D. Eng. degrees from Yale University. He is a member of the Chemistry and Materials Science Department of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Department of Applied Science of the University of California at Davis and at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.