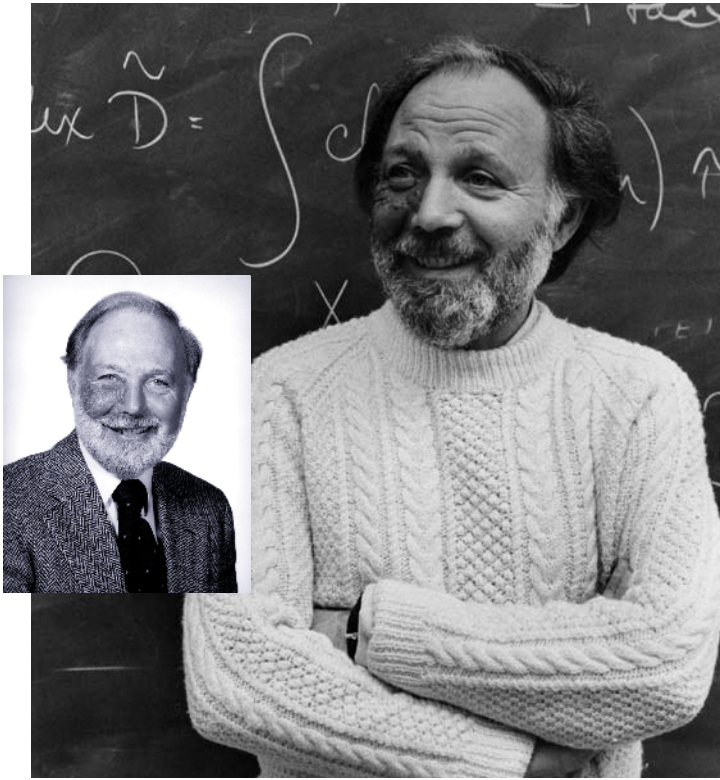


## Abel Laureate Wins MIT's Killian Award



**Isadore M. Singer**

Established in 1971 as a tribute to James Rhyne Killian, the Killian Award recognizes extraordinary professional accomplishment by an MIT faculty member. Isadore Singer was selected to be the Killian Award winner for 2005–06. Born in 1924 in Detroit, Professor Singer earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in 1944. After earning a PhD from the University of Chicago in 1950, he joined the faculty at MIT. Singer has spent most of his professional life at MIT, where he is currently an Institute Professor. In 2005, the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awarded the Abel Prize to Isadore M. Singer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Sir Michael Francis Atiyah, University of Edinburgh, “for their discovery and proof of the index theorem, bringing together topology, geometry, and analysis, and their outstanding role in building new bridges between mathematics and theoretical physics.”



### **The Abel Prize**

In 2001, the Norwegian government announced the creation of the Abel Prize, named after the brilliant Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (1802–1829), in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of his birth. The Abel Prize had been proposed in 1902, but the idea was abandoned when the union between the kingdoms of Sweden and Norway was disbanded. The Abel Prize is now awarded annually.

## Richard Melrose Appointed to Simons Chair



**Richard Melrose**

Professor Richard Melrose was appointed as chair holder of the Simons Mathematics Professorship beginning July 1, 2006.

Professor David Vogan had this to say about Richard's extraordinary contributions, “Richard Melrose is the heart of the Math Department's program in analysis: the general study of differential equations and their solutions. The department's beginnings as a serious research department came with Norbert Wiener; Richard's earliest work on wave front sets and propagation of singularities is very much in the spirit of Wiener.

“The next great monument in the history of analysis at MIT was the proof of the index theorem by Sir Michael Francis Atiyah and Isadore M. Singer in 1963. Richard's work has focused on questions related to the index theorem; roughly speaking, the relationship between solutions of differential equations on a manifold and the topology of the manifold. Richard Melrose has been doing mathematics at MIT for 30 years, and MIT is a much stronger place for his presence.”

Richard Melrose holds a BS degree from the University of Tasmania, and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. He began his career at MIT as an Associate Professor in 1976. Professor Melrose received the Bôcher Prize in 1984. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Clay Mathematics Institute.