UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELL'AQUILA
M&MOCS
International Research Center on
MATHEMATICS AND MECHANICS
OF COMPLEX SYSTEMS

LAUDATIO FOR PROFESSOR SAID AHZI

Dr. Said Ahzi is a Distinguished Professor (Professeur Classe Exceptionnelle) at the Faculty of Physics and Engineering of Strasbourg University (France).

He holds an Adjunct Professor position with the School of Materials Science and Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech, Atlanta, U.S.).

He's an Associate Research Member with Center for Mechanical Technology and Automation (TEMA) at the University of Aveiro (Portugal).

He received in 1987 his PhD in Physics and Mechanic of Materials at University of Metz (France); from 1987 to 1991 he was Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, U.S.); from 1991 to 1995 he was Research Scientists/Lecturer at the Department of Applied Mechanics and Engineering Sciences at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD, U.S.); from 1995 to 2000 he held the position of Professor (Assistant then Associate Professor) at the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Clemson University (SC, U.S.).

From 2014 to 2021, he was on unpaid leave from the University of Strasbourg and held several positions at Qatar Foundation:

- Principal Investigator at Qatar Environmental and Energy Research Institute (QEERI);
- Full Professor (joint faculty) at the College of Science and Engineering - Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU);
- Acting Research Director of the Materials Engineering Group at QEERI;
- Acting Research Director for Computational Materials and Processes Center at QEERI, and visiting Professor at Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ).

His research and teaching path, along the entire more than thirty-year span of his career, include multiscale modeling of materials behavior (polymers, metals, biomaterials, nanocomposites …), microstructure-property relationship, materials processing, process modeling and simulation of microstructure evolution. He and his team developed computational tools for the design of materials and systems for energy and water applications; in the case of Photovoltaic Industry model developed, based on a coupled approach (thermal, electrical and mechanical) was able to predict efficiency, degradation and life time of PV modules.

The results obtained are collected in almost 400 publications in the main international scientific journals, covering 97 research items.

Alongside 'pure' research, extremely relevant is his contribution to education, training and specialization of more than a generation of young researchers; only in the last years he's supervised

more than 35 PhDs and 25 Masters students, still representing an absolute point of reference in his field.

For the innovative vision, the relevant international scope, the industrial strategic impact of all its thirty years of activity the Committee, entrusted by the Scientific Committee of the International Research Center MeMoCS with the responsibility of awarding the International Eugenio Beltrami Prize unanimously proposes Professor Said Ahzi as recipient of the 2019 edition.