



***Diran Apelian, Sc.D.***

---

Dr. Apelian received his B.S. degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Drexel University (1968) and his Doctorate in Materials Science and Engineering from MIT (1972). After graduating from MIT, he joined Bethlehem Steel's Homer Research Laboratories where he co-developed the Ultra-Form series of high strength low alloy steels. He joined Drexel University in 1976 and held various positions at Drexel, including Professor, Head of the Department of Materials Engineering, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and subsequently Vice-Provost of the University. He joined WPI in July 1990 as the Institute's Provost, and led the mission of broadening WPI's academic programs and research agenda. After a six-year tenure as Provost he headed the Metal Processing Institute (MPI) at WPI, which is an industry-university alliance with Centers in Metal Casting; Heat Treating; and Resource Recovery and Recycling. MPI is supported by over 90 corporate partners, as well as funding from private foundations and the federal government. During the last decade MPI has developed into one of the nation's premiere research centers dedicated to metal processing.

Prof. Diran Apelian is widely recognized for his innovative work in metal processing and for his leadership as a researcher and educator. His research has helped establish mechanisms and fundamentals in metal processing, and helped lay the foundations for significant industrial developments. In particular, his work in the fields of molten metal processing, plasma processing, spray casting, and shape casting of aluminum alloys can be described as pioneering work. More recently, his work in the development of technologies to recover and recycle materials is critically important for a sustainable future. A characteristic of Prof. Apelian's work is that his scholarly output is greatly utilized by the industrial sector. Much of today's industrial developments in shaped aluminum castings have been influenced by the work of Prof. Apelian and his students. Apelian has a unique talent for building bridges between the industrial and academic communities, and for identifying fundamental scientific issues holding back the development of a given technology. He has over 500 publications to his credit and eleven books, which he has written or co-edited.

For his achievements, Prof. Apelian has been honored with a number of awards. These include the Howard Taylor Gold Medal in 1987 by AFS as well as the Scientific Merit Award of AFS (1990); he is an Honorary Member of NADCA. In 1990 Apelian received ASM's Henry Marion Howe Medal for the best paper or series of papers in Metallurgical Transactions by AIME. In March 1992, at the TMS Annual Meeting, he received the Champion H. Mathewson Gold Medal for his contributions to the literature. He was

awarded an Honorary Doctorate and was named Honorary Professor of Northwestern Polytechnic University in Xian, China, in 1997. He is an Honorary Member of the French Materials Engineering Society- SF2M (2000). He is a Fellow of ASM, APMI and TMS, and was the recipient of the Bruce Chalmers Award in 2006 awarded by TMS. In 2006 WPI recognized Apelian with the Board of Trustees' award for Outstanding Research and Creative Scholarship. Apelian was recognized (in 2007) for his work on society and technology with Acta Materialia's prestigious Hollomon Award. He is also the recipient of the Brimacombe prize (2007) for being a world ambassador, an innovator, and a visionary for a better global society. Apelian received the Chairman's Exemplary Faculty Prize in 2009, given by the Trustees of WPI, and the British Foundry Medal in 2010. He is a member of the NAE (National Academy of Engineering), and the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Apelian is member of various professional societies including TMS, ASM, AFS, NADCA, and MPIF. Dr. Apelian serves on several corporate boards, as well as on the strategic/science councils of several global corporations. His contributions to Howmet Corporation led to the establishment of the Howmet Chair Professorship at WPI, a chair that he currently holds. He has served on, and chaired, several National Materials Advisory Boards for the National Research Council. He is a Board member of IHSAN an NGO for Humanitarian support. Apelian is a Trustee Emeritus of Norwich University in Vermont, and has served on MIT's and Drexel University's Advisory Boards. He was Chief-Editor of the web-based *Journal of Light Metals*, served on the Editorial board of the *International Journal of Cast Metals Research*, and the *Encyclopedia of Materials Science and Engineering*.

Prof. Apelian chaired the Public and Government Affairs Committee of TMS (1998-2002), and is an active advocate for Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) specifically as it pertains to global issues. In 2004 he delivered the Distinguished Lecture on Materials and Society at the ASM-TMS Congress, and continues lecturing on such issues around the world. In 2005 he was invited to address the Norwegian Research Council about MSE's role in ensuring a sustainable planet, and in 2007 at TMS' 50th Anniversary he was a Laureate Lecturer and presented the Future of MSE – the next 50 years. Diran Apelian served as President of TMS for 2008/2009.

---