

# ETHICAL ISSUES SURROUNDING COLD FUSION

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## Abstract

On March 23, 1989 Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischman held a news conference to announce the observation of nuclear fusion in an electrochemical cell: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CfHaeQo6oU>

Events leading up to this press conference and subsequent events led to a number of ethical issues that are relevant today. Aspects of the cold fusion saga that relate to ethical topics important today will be discussed. Such topics include: public announcement before peer review, discarding or disregarding data, suspension of scientific judgment, disregarding well established theory, sloppy science, research outside one's area of expertise, patent protection, and authorship of students on research papers.

## Bio

### Education

- BS, Carleton College, Minnesota
- PhD, Brown University, Rhode Island

### Awards and Honors

- Research Publication Award from the Naval Research laboratory in 1975
- Department of Energy Certificates for Outstanding Contributions to Photovoltaic Research in 1990 and 1995
- A Citation and Medal for Outstanding Professorial Contributions from Brown University in 1992
- The Distinguished Scholarly and Creative Research Award from the University of Utah in 2003

### Research Interests

- Optical, electronic, and structural properties of crystalline & amorphous semiconductors
- Disordered materials and their characterization
- Photovoltaics

Dr. Taylor has written over 400 scientific papers including several book chapters and review articles. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Materials Research Society, and the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Dr. Taylor presented the Mott Lecture in 2005, which is the most prestigious lecture in the field of amorphous and nanocrystalline semiconductors. The major research interests of Professor Taylor include the optical, electronic and structural properties of crystalline and amorphous semiconductors.

**Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015**

**Time: 4:00pm**

**Location: Hill Hall 202**