

Ekström Wins Young Scientist Prize

September 20, 2016

Congratulations to UT Physics "Alum" Andreas Ekström, a former postdoc who recently won the prestigious **Young Scientist Prize in nuclear physics**

(<http://www.chalmers.se/en/departments/physics/news/Pages/Andreas-Ekstrom-awarded-the-IUPAP-Young-Scientist-Prize.aspx>). Andreas was recognized "For his groundbreaking contributions in the

optimization of nuclear interactions from chiral effective field theory using advanced physical and mathematical tools in quantifying the theoretical uncertainties. This has allowed accurate ab initio many-body calculations in the areas of nuclear structure and reactions, reproducing for the first time both nuclear binding energies and radii in higher precision and giving realistic saturation properties of nuclear matter."

Dr. Ekström was a postdoc in the department's nuclear theory group until February 2016, when he accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Physics at Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden. In the UT/ORNL Nuclear Theory Group, he worked with Adjunct Assistant Professor Gaute Hagen and Professor Thomas Papenbrock. Earlier this year Ekström and coworkers **published research** (<http://www.phys.utk.edu/news/2016/prx.html>) on improving methods to determine errors in nuclear theory, which, in the long run, will help include correct physics in models of the atomic nucleus.

The Young Scientist Prize is granted by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). UT's nuclear physicists have been on their radar quite a bit recently, as they play a key role in accepting and naming new elements, including **Tennesine** (<http://tntoday.utk.edu/2016/06/08/tennessee-place-table-newest-element-tennessine/>).