

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 4, 2007

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**\$10 Million Gift from Dr. James Simons initiates MSRI endowment drive**  
**Largest endowment gift to a U.S. math institute establishes the Eisenbud Chair**

**BERKELEY, California** – Dr. James H. Simons, mathematician, philanthropist, and one of the world’s most successful hedge fund managers announced today a \$10 million gift from the Simons Foundation to the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, [www.msri.org](http://www.msri.org)), the largest single cash pledge in the Institute’s 25-year history. The new funding is also the largest gift of endowment made to a U.S.-based institute dedicated to mathematics.

The monies will create a \$5 million endowed Chair, the “Eisenbud Professorship” named for Dr. David Eisenbud, the Director of MSRI, to support distinguished visiting professors at MSRI. The gift comes as Dr. Eisenbud nears the end of his term as Director (from July 1997 to July 2007) of the Institute located in Berkeley, CA, and as MSRI prepares to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the late Fall/Winter 2007-08. “I’m particularly honored and gratified that Jim Simons has chosen to place a professorship in my name, as part of his phenomenal generosity toward mathematics and MSRI,” commented David Eisenbud. An additional \$5 million will start a new campaign for an MSRI endowment by matching funds (1:1) raised for the Institute’s permanent endowment. “The institutions that do well over the long term, through good times and bad, are the ones that have substantial endowments. MSRI is of enormous importance to the mathematics community, so it gives me the greatest pleasure to see this first major step toward an endowment,” stated Eisenbud.

MSRI’s Chair of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Charles Fefferman, Fields Medalist and Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University, remarked that, “This wonderful gesture reflects Jim Simons’ deep passion for mathematics. We hope this extraordinary gift will help bring forth at MSRI future breakthroughs of the stature of the Chern-Simons Invariants. We are all deeply grateful.”

Currently a trustee of MSRI, Dr. James H. Simons has been a member of the Institute’s Board since 1999 ([www.msri.org/about/governance/trustees/TrusteesInfo/200000253/show\\_trustees](http://www.msri.org/about/governance/trustees/TrusteesInfo/200000253/show_trustees)) and is the founder of the NYC-based Math for America (see [www.mathforamerica.org](http://www.mathforamerica.org)). Together with his wife, Marilyn, Dr. Simons manages the Simons Foundation, a charitable organization devoted to scientific research. The Simons live in Manhattan.

Dr. James Simons is President of Renaissance Technologies Corp., a private investment firm dedicated to the use of mathematical methods. Renaissance presently has over \$30 billion under management. Previously he was chairman of the Mathematics Department at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Earlier in his career he was a cryptanalyst at the Institute of Defense Analyses in Princeton, and taught mathematics at MIT and Harvard University.

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Dr. Simons holds a BS in mathematics from MIT and a PhD in mathematics from the UC Berkeley. His scientific research was in the area of geometry and topology. He received the American Mathematical Society Veblen Prize in Geometry in 1975 for work that involved a recasting of the subject of area minimizing multi-dimensional surfaces. A consequence was the settling of two classical questions, the Bernstein Conjecture and the Plateau Problem. Dr. Simons' most influential research involved the discovery and application of certain measurements, now called the Chern-Simons Invariants, which have wide use, particularly in theoretical physics. The Chern-Simons Invariants were a product of his collaboration with Shiing-Shen Chern, MSRI's cofounder and first director.

Dr. Simons is the founder and Chairman of Math for America, a nonprofit organization with a mission to significantly improve math education in our nation's public schools. He serves as Trustee of Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Institute for Advanced Study, the Rockefeller University, and the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley. He is a member of the Board of the MIT Corporation. Dr. Simons was selected by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to serve on the newly formed National Mathematics Advisory Panel.

**PHOTO** – A high-resolution photograph of Dr. James Simons is available, by request.

The **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI)** is one of the world's premiere centers for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. More than 1,700 mathematical scientists visit MSRI each year in Berkeley, CA, many for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, academic and corporate sponsors, and individual donors.

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