

Citation for a 2019 RAS Honorary Fellowship: Professor Ralf Bender

An Honorary Fellowship in Astronomy is awarded to Professor Ralf Bender.

Professor Ralf Bender wrote early seminal papers on the structural properties of massive galaxies and the definition of the Fundamental Plane of elliptical galaxies. He is one of the main contributors to the discovery and definition of the fundamental relation between galaxies and their central supermassive black-holes.

Professor Bender was among the first to notice the peculiar chemical pattern of the most massive galaxies. Professor Bender's recent work focuses on cosmology, aiming at determining the nature of dark energy.

In 2002 he was nominated Director of the Max-Planck Institute for Extra-terrestrial Physics, while being Chair of Astronomy at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. Over the years Professor Bender has covered several institutional roles at the European Southern Observatory, and he is a member of the German National Academy of Science Leopoldina.

For the unique combination of research leadership and institutional service, Professor Ralf Bender is awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Astronomical Society.