Honorary Fellowship 2021 - Prof. Walter Mooney

Full citation

Professor Walter Mooney has spent an outstanding career investigating the crust and upper mantle beneath the Earth's continents. He pioneered controlled-source seismic methods (for example using explosives) and combined results from diverse investigations by groups all over the world to make a global synthesis.

He made inferences from the properties thus discovered, leading to highly cited works giving deeper understanding of the evolution of the continental crust and formation of mountains and rifts. He has inspired many researchers and received awards including the Woollard Award of the Geological Society of America and the Gold Medal of the Indian Geophysical Union. He diversified recently, publishing on the crustal thickness of the Moon.

For these reasons Professor Mooney is awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the RAS.

Short citation

Professor Walter Mooney is awarded an Honorary Fellowship for a career in investigating the Earth's crust and upper mantle by seismic methods and combining these results to come to deeper understanding of crustal processes.