GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

Fermi, Enrico 1901 - 1954

DEGREE: PhD DATE: 1922 PLACE: Pisa
TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Puccianti

Nobel Prize for physics in 1938 for work on neutron bombardment, particularly with thermal neutrons; contributed to theoretical physics with his statistics for spin ½ particles (independently developed by Dirac) and his theory of beta decay; achieved artificial radioactivity by neutron bombardment and the first nuclear chain reaction; used slow neutrons for experimental purposes; named the neutrino and coined the word pion; worked out the nature of the weak interaction; proposed the idea that cosmic rays are generated by protons accelerated by entire galaxies; the element fermium and the word fermion to describe spin-½ particles are named after him.

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2. Asimov, I. *Asimov's Biographical Encylopedia of Science and Technology (2nd Ed.)*; Doubleday: 1982; p781-782.
3. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **1955**, *27*, 249-275.
4. *Biog. Mem. Fell. Roy. Soc.* **1955**, *1*, 69-78.
5. *Chem. Eng. News* **1954**, *32*, 4868.
6. *Biog. Mem. Nat. Acad. Sci.* **1957**, *30*, 125-155.
7. Segrè, E. *Enrico Fermi Physicist*; Univ. of Chicago Press: 1970; p4-24.