



American Society for Cybernetics

The Wiener Gold Medal of the American Society for Cybernetics
is awarded to

Francisco Varela

for outstanding and profound lifelong contributions to the nurturing of cybernetics.

The Wiener Gold Medal of the American Society for Cybernetics is awarded posthumously to Francisco Varela for his remarkable lifework in cybernetics, biology and the Buddhist-inspired study of embodied consciousness.

Francisco Varela's early work formed a mathematical counterpoint to his deep collaborations with Humberto Maturana. This mathematical work brought the foundations of a calculus for self-reference to cybernetics and advanced the mathematical work of Wiener, McCulloch and Pitts of the early cybernetics to a new level. His biological work in neurophysiology complemented these developments. The potential for further mathematics for second order cybernetics at the level of Varela's contribution stands as a challenge for the future of cybernetics and its practitioners.

Louis H. Kauffman
President of the American Society for Cybernetics
2008.05.12