



## Frank Press



**Date of Birth** 4 December 1924

**Place** New York, NY (USA)

**Nomination** 3 September 1999

**Field** Geophysics

**Title** Professor

**Professional address**

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### Most important awards, prizes and academies

**Awards:** Légion d'honneur, France (1989); Japan Prize (1993); US National Medal of Science (1994); Cross of Merit, Germany (1993); Lomonosov Gold Medal of Russian Academy of Sciences (1998). **Academies:** US National Academy of Sciences; Royal Society of London; Académie des sciences, France; Russian Academy of Sciences; American Philosophical Society; Japan Academy of Engineering; American Academy of Arts and Sciences. **Honorary Degrees:** Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Sorbonne, Notre Dame, others.

### Summary of scientific research

Research and teaching in earth and planetary sciences with specialization in geophysics and oceanography.

### Main publications

Press, F. and Ewing, M., Propagation of explosive sound in a liquid layer overlying a semi-infinite elastic solid, *Geophysics*, 15, pp. 426-46 (1950); Press, F. and Ewing, M., Crustal structure and surface wave dispersion, Part II: Solomon Island earthquake of 29 July 1950, *Bull. Seism. Soc. Am.*, 42, pp. 315-25 (1952); Press, F. and Ewing, M., Mantle Rayleigh waves from the Kamchatka earthquake of 4 November, 1952, *Bull. Seism. Soc. Am.*, 44, pp. 471-9 (1954); Press, F., Oliver, J.E., and Ewing, M., Crustal structure and surface wave dispersion, Part IV: Atlantic and Pacific Ocean Basins, *Bull. Geol. Soc. Am.*, 66, pp. 913-46 (1953); Press, F. and Ewing, M., Rayleigh wave dispersion in the period range 10-500 seconds, *Trans. Am. Geophys. Union*, 37, pp. 213-5 (1956); Press, F., Determination of crustal structure from phase velocity of Rayleigh waves, Part I: Southern California, *Bull. Geol. Soc. Am.*, 67, pp. 1647-58 (1956); Press, F., Ewing, M., and Jardetsky, W.S., *Elastic Waves in Layered Media* (McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1957); Press, F. and Ewing, M., Determination of crustal structure from phase velocity of Rayleigh waves, Part III: The United States, *Bull. Seism. Soc. Am.*, 70, pp. 229-44 (1959); Press, F., Benioff, H. and Smith, S., Excitation of the free oscillations of the earth by earthquakes, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 66, pp. 605-19 (1961); Press, F., Ben Menahem, A. and Toksoz, M.N., Experimental determination of earthquake fault length and rupture velocity, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 66, pp. 3471-85 (1961); Press, F. and Harkrider, D., Propagation of acoustic-gravity waves in the atmosphere, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 67, pp. 3889-3908 (1962); Press, F. and Biehler, S., Influences on crustal velocities and densities from P-wave delays and gravity anomalies, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 69, pp. 2979-95 (1964); Press, F., Displacements, strains and tilts at teleseismic distances, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 70, pp. 2395-2412 (1965); Press, F., Earth models obtained by Monte Carlo inversion, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 73, p. 16 (1968); Press, F., Regionalized earth models, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 75, pp. 6575-81 (1970); Press, F., The earth and the moon, *Quarterly J. Roy. Astron. Soc.*, 12, pp. 232-43 (1971); Press, F., Science and Technology in the White House, 1977 to 1980: Parts 1 and 2, *Science*, 211, pp. 139-45, pp. 249-56 (1981); Press, F., Science: The best and the worst of times, *Science*, 231, pp. 1351-2 (1986); Press, F., Growing up in the golden age of science, *Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Science*, 231, pp. 1351-2 (1986); Press, F., Patterns of seismic release in the Southern Californian region, *J. of Geophys. Res.*, 100, n. B4, pp. 6421-30 (1995); Press, F., The dilemma of the golden age (address to the members of the National academy of Sciences at the 125th annual meeting), *Science, Technology, and Human Values*, 13, nos. 3 and 4 (summer and autumn, 1988); Press, F., Science and society in the years

ahead, 1995 *Sigma Xi Forum*, *Vannevar Bush II: Science for the 21st Century*, March 2-3 (1995); Press, F. and Siever R., *Understanding Earth*, 4th edn. (W.H. Freeman and company, New York, 2003).