

Introduction
Pugwash 50th Anniversary Commemoration

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I would like to start by thanking Alan McGowan, Christine Rovner, and all those who helped organize and will be attending the Student Pugwash USA national conference, about which Christine will have a few words following remarks from Dick Garwin.

A 50th anniversary is always a notable event, whether it's celebrating 50 years of marriage or 50 years of an organization like Pugwash. Speaking of marriage, that does bring to mind the famous Oscar Wilde line, that marriage is a wonderful institution, but who wants to spend their life in an institution?

Well, I've spent the better part of my professional life, since 1982 (25 years... half way to 50), involved in one way or another with the Pugwash Conferences, and it's been an incredibly rewarding experience.

Those of you here who knew and were friends of Joseph Rotblat will understand that just the opportunity to experience Jo's humanity and integrity has been reward enough for my involvement with Pugwash.

But there have also been so many others that I've been privileged to know and work with.

Herb York, Shalheveth Freier of Israel, Vitalii Goldanski of Russia, Hans Bethe, Rudi Peierls of the UK, Martin Kaplan, Sir Michael Atiyah, George Rathjens, Paul Doty, Victor Rabinowitch, and of course, Ruth Adams.

And, there are my current colleagues, Paolo Cotta-Ramusino, the Pugwash Secretary General, our President, MS Swaminathan, and Marie Muller and other members of the Pugwash Council, all of whom contribute to keeping Pugwash a lively, vital and relevant organization.

Looking back at the first meeting in Pugwash, Nova Scotia in July 1957, at the summer home of the Cleveland industrialist Cyrus Eaton, I wonder if the 21 physicists and other scientists who gathered there could have imagined that, fifty years later, the Pugwash organization would have contributed so significantly to a number of major international agreements on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, have a truly global presence with national groups and representatives in more than 50 countries around the world, and have been honored with the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize.

By the same token, could they ever have imagined that, while we did survive more than three decades of the Cold War without a nuclear catastrophe, we now face perhaps an even more insidious and difficult to defend threat.... A nuclear 9/11?

Our talk tonight by Dick Garwin will illuminate some of the current dangers posed by nuclear weapons, and novel ways that groups like Pugwash can work to reduce and eliminate those dangers.

I will only add that Pugwash will be convening a 50th anniversary workshop this coming July in Pugwash, Nova Scotia – entitled *Revitalizing Nuclear Disarmament* – that will build on the growing support for the goal that Pugwash has espoused from the very beginning – eliminating nuclear weapons. As you know, this goal has now been endorsed in a collective editorial by Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, William Perry, and Sam Nunn, not to mention a wide array of political, military and global figures. In the years ahead, we must take advantage of the opportunities – too many of which have been wasted in recent history - for pressing ahead to achieve this goal.

Before turning the evening over to Dick, I'd like to pay tribute to Paul Leventhal, who died just a few days ago. Many of Paul's friends are here tonight, and we would all agree that his work through the Nuclear Control Institute over many, many years was a significant contributing force toward the goal of controlling and ridding the world of dangerous fissile material.

In closing this introduction, I can think of no more appropriate speaker for tonight's 50th anniversary commemoration of Pugwash than Dick Garwin. Having been "present nearly at the creation" of the nuclear age, Dick has been a true national resource - for his contributions to both the national security of our country, and to the global security of the international community. For many people, these two goals might seem orthogonal, even antithetical. For Dick Garwin, they are but one more intellectual puzzle that he's been more than happy to tackle.

Thank you.