

Paul Messina

Biographical sketch

Paul Messina is a retired computational scientist. In his last formal appointments he was a Distinguished Senior Computer Scientist in the Mathematics and Computer Science Division of Argonne National Laboratory and a Fellow of the Computation Institute of the University of Chicago from 2002 to 2004. During that time he also held the position of Visiting Research Scholar at the Information Sciences Institute of the University of Southern California.

During 2002-2003 he served as Senior Advisor to the Director of CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research). In April 2002 he retired from his positions at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) of Assistant Vice President for Scientific Computing, Faculty Associate in Scientific Computing, and Director of Caltech's Center for Advanced Computing Research. Before his retirement he was a Principal Investigator for the Teragrid and the National Virtual Observatory projects. During a leave from Caltech from January 1999 to December 2000, he was Director of the Office of Advanced Simulation and Computing for Defense Programs in the National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy. In that capacity he had responsibility for managing the Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative, the world's largest scientific computing program, which was defining the state of the art in that field. From 1997 to 2002, he held the position of Chief Architect for the National Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (NPACI), a partnership established by the National Science Foundation and led by the University of California, San Diego. In the mid 1990s he established and led the Scalable I/O Initiative (SIO), a large scale-effort to address input/output scalability issues in large-scale computing; the SIO had over 15 participating institutions. In the early 1990s he was the Principal Investigator and project manager of the CASA gigabit network testbed. During that period he also conceived, formed, and led the Consortium for Concurrent Supercomputing, which created and operated the Intel Touchstone Delta System, which was at that time the world's most powerful scientific computer. He held a joint appointment at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as manager of High-Performance Computing and Communications from 1988 to 1998. From 1973 to 1987 he held a variety of positions at Argonne National Laboratory, with the last being Director of the Mathematics and Computer Science Division. His research interests focus on creating advanced computer and data handling environments for large-scale computing applications in science and engineering.

From 2002 to 2004 he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Grid Forum and chaired its Advisory Committee from 2001 - 2004. Dr. Messina has served on many review and advisory committees in the areas of high performance computing and grid computing. He is one of the authors of the report of the advisory panel on CyberInfrastructure for the National Science Foundation in the US.

Messina received his Ph.D. in mathematics in 1972 and his M.S. in applied mathematics in 1967, both from the University of Cincinnati, and his B.A. in mathematics in 1965 from the College of Wooster. In 2001 he received the U.S. Department of Energy's Distinguished Associate Award.

In 1997 he was awarded an honorary degree in Computer Engineering by the University of Lecce, Italy, in recognition of his contributions to computational science. In 1993 he

was awarded a plaque by the IEEE High-Performance Distributed Computing Conference for pioneering contributions to the field. In 1992 he received Federal Computer Week's ``Federal 100 Award "for spearheading the acquisition of the Intel Touchstone Delta and overcoming politics and interagency rivalries in creating the Concurrent Supercomputing Consortium." FCW gives this award each year to recognize people from academia, government, and industry ``who have made a difference in the Federal systems community."