

For Immediate Release
Release No. PR-12-1203-08
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American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation Awards Amy Lesiewicz S. Edmund Berger Prize for Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation

ALEXANDRIA, VA — Amy Lesiewicz, of Sugar Land, Texas, is the recipient of the AFTI's S. Edmund Berger Prize for Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation. The award was originally established by ATA and the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation in honor of Dr. S. Edmund Berger, a distinguished translator of chemical texts, to recognize an accomplished translator for his or her achievement in scientific or technical translation.

Lesiewicz is a Russian into English translator specializing in scientific and technical texts. She has a BS in chemistry from the University of Missouri-Rolla (now the Missouri University of Science and Technology) and advanced degrees in Russian and translation from the State University of New York at Albany. Lesiewicz spent more than three years working at a major engineering company providing translation support for their Russian oil and gas projects. She also spent a year at a translation agency in Moscow, Russia, where she worked alongside a lawyer and legal translation expert. She has translated scholarly journal articles on chemistry, biology, and mathematics. Past translation projects include a medical doctoral dissertation on obstetrics, medical journal articles on cardiology, and literature reviews on clinical trials of peptic ulcer treatments.

“I get a huge rush of endorphins when I find just the right phrase to translate a tricky concept, or when I find the proper word for a scientific or engineering term,” says Lesiewicz. “I try to take advantage of all the learning opportunities inherent in every translation assignment.”

S. Edmund Berger worked as a researcher, first at Harvard Medical School (forensic chemistry) and then for a chemical corporation in Buffalo. He has engaged in many different activities, including basic and applied research in fields such as polymers, food chemistry, surfactants, fluorocarbon solvent applications, and polyurethane coatings. He

has been a freelance translator in the chemical and biomedical fields for more than 50 years. He joined ATA in 1961, and is an ATA-certified translator (French into English, German into English, and Italian into English). In 1999, he was the recipient of ATA's Gode Medal.

The American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI) was established in 1997. AFTI's primary charitable and educational activities consist of sponsorship and dissemination of research and education in the fields of translation and interpreting through research grants, scholarships, conferences, and commissions for the production of education materials, as well as through the establishment and maintenance of an archive for the collection of documents and artifacts related to translation and interpreting. Visit: www.afti.org/about_AFTI.php.

Founded in 1959, the American Translators Association's primary goals include fostering and supporting the professional development of translators and interpreters and promoting the translation and interpreting professions. ATA, based in Alexandria, Virginia, currently has 11,000 members worldwide. For more information on ATA, please visit www.atanet.org.

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