

Steven Cowley

Professor Steven Cowley, a theoretical physicist and international authority on fusion energy, became the seventh Director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in 2018, and a Princeton professor of astrophysical sciences. He was president of Corpus Christi College and professor of physics at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom from 2016 to 2018. Cowley was chief executive officer of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and head of the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy from 2008 to 2016. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 2018 “for services to science and the development of nuclear fusion.” Steve earned his doctorate in astrophysical sciences at Princeton University and was a staff scientist at PPPL from 1987 to 1993. He is a member of the Royal Society and of the Royal Academy of Engineering. He won a scholarship to Corpus Christi College, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in physics in 1981. He went on to study plasma physics at Princeton University as a Harkness Fellow and graduated with a Ph.D. in 1985.